

Volume 127, Number 64

Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Wednesday, January 23, 2008

RIAA Sends Institute 19 Settlement Letters Alleging Infringement

By Natasha Plotkin
STAFF REPORTER

Nineteen members of the MIT community have been asked by the recording industry to preemptively settle lawsuits for allegedly downloading music illegally on peer-to-peer networks, according to a Jan. 10 Recording Industry Association of America press release.

One MIT student who has received a letter from the RIAA said last week that he planned not to settle and that he would fight the RIAA's attempts to learn his identity. To date, no MIT students are known to have gone to court — all have paid the pre-litigation settlement or have settled after the RIAA has sent a subpoena to MIT.

The RIAA identified alleged infringers by looking at their IP addresses. Since the RIAA cannot obtain the names of people connected with the IP addresses without a court order, it instead sent its demand letters directly to MIT and requested that the Institute forward the letters to the community members. MIT complied with the RIAA's request and has forwarded the letters to the computer users corresponding to those addresses.

These requests come as part of the latest wave of 407 RIAA letters sent

to college students from universities across the country this month. The RIAA has sent thousands of such letters in batches since February 2007. This is the third time that the RIAA has sent letters to groups of MIT affiliates: 23 letters were sent in May 2007, and 30 were sent in September 2007.

By asking for settlements in these letters, the RIAA avoids ordering costly subpoenas that force universities to release the identities of alleged infringers and following up on those subpoenas with copyright infringement lawsuits. The letters also, according to the RIAA, "provide students the opportunity to resolve copyright infringement claims against them at a discounted rate before a formal lawsuit is filed." According to the Electronic Frontier Foundation, these early settlement amounts generally range from \$3,000 to \$5,000.

RIA spokesperson Liz Kennedy told *The Tech* in October that, from the May 2007 group of letters, 15 of 22 people contacted paid the pre-litigation settlement, while seven others had their records subpoenaed. Those seven students later settled out of court before a trial. The 23rd IP ad-

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Neighborhood Ice Cream Shop Toscani's Seized Because of \$167,000 Tax Bill

By Nick Bushak
NEWS EDITOR

The Central Square branch of Toscanini's Ice Cream was seized last Thursday by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue because the shop failed to pay more than \$167,000 in taxes that have accumulated since 2000, according to the *Boston Globe*.

A proposal for reopening the

store and paying the taxes requested by the DOR was submitted on Tuesday, Toscanini's owner Gus Rancatore said in an interview. He had not yet heard back from the DOR regarding the proposal as of Tuesday afternoon, he said, but he and the DOR were in talks to develop a plan to reopen the store.

To raise money for a down payment to the DOR, Samuel Mehr — a

Toscanini's employee and music student in Rochester, N.Y. — created a Web site requesting donations, said Gus Rancatore. The site, www.savetoscini.com, stated that its goal was to raise \$25,000 to help the store reopen.

As of yesterday afternoon, the site has raised more than \$18,000 from donations, said Mimi Rancatore, one of the store's operators. The amount raised was "very overwhelming" and "[we are] very grateful," she said.

The shop was shut down largely because of a "confused attempt to expand the business between 2000 and 2005," according to a press release issued by Gus and Mimi Rancatore on Jan. 20.

"We got very disorganized and did not pay taxes for a period," Gus Rancatore said in an interview. During that time, Toscanini's opened

Toscanini's, Page 13

In Short

J.K. Rowling, author of the Harry Potter books, will deliver the keynote address at Harvard's commencement ceremony on June 5, 2008. The university will present Rowling with an honorary degree.

The MIT Energy Initiative will spend more than \$1.6 million in campus seed grants — ranging from \$30,000 to \$150,000 — for 17 energy research projects. The projects were selected out of 54 submitted proposals.

Send news information and tips to news@the-tech.mit.edu.



The popular ice cream and coffee shop Toscanini's remains closed after a seizure on Thursday by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue for nonpayment of more than \$167,000 in back taxes.

News

Number of applicants to top-tier universities increases dramatically.

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In Annual Hunt, Murder Mystery Challenges Institute Puzzle Buffs

By Elijah Jordan Turner

Hordes of people gathered in Lobby 7 at noon on Friday for the start of the 29th annual Mystery Hunt, when teams were handed a piece of paper entitled "Puzzle

Zero." It became quite clear over the next arduous 56 hours that this puzzle had absolutely nothing to do with the Hunt, as teams of students, alumni, and others toiled through what even the organizers — collectively named "Palindrome" — admit was a very difficult edition of MIT's annual Hunt.

This year's Hunt involved the

murder of the fictional Dr. Otto Awkward, who was killed while he was hiding the coin that participants spent the greater part of the weekend seeking. Since Dr. Awkward was the only person who knew the whereabouts of the coin, the only way to discern its location was, naturally, to solve

Mystery Hunt, Page 17



OMARI STEPHENS—THE TECH

Members of the Mystery Hunt team Silly Hat Brigade work on a preliminary puzzle at the Mystery Hunt opening ceremony. The ceremony occurred in Lobby 7 this past Friday, Jan. 18 at noon. The team Evil Midnight Bombers What Bomb at Midnight won this year's annual hunt; see page 17 for more photographs.

House Dining Membership Plan Extended During IAP

By Yuri Hanada

STAFF REPORTER

Students who paid half price for meals at dining halls during the fall will also pay half price during the Independent Activities Period. MIT Campus Dining has extended the duration of the House Dining Membership, formerly known as Preferred Dining, at no additional cost to members.

The extension was announced in an e-mail sent to MIT housemasters on Jan. 10. The extension affects all members of the program, which students may opt into but which automatically enrolls all residents of the undergraduate dormitories with dining halls — Baker House, McCormick Hall, Next House, and Simmons Hall.

The House Dining Membership fee is currently \$300 for Spring 2008. Members receive a 50 percent discount on most purchases in dining halls.

While a dining discount that

covered IAP was available for purchase in the past through a separate membership, it was discontinued due to low interest, said Anne W. Wilson, marketing specialist for Campus Dining. In recent years, the fall House Dining Membership did not include IAP because Campus Dining wanted to reduce program costs. The current extension began Jan. 10; House Dining members who ate at dining halls during IAP before that date paid full price.

"Extending it through IAP certainly makes sense and aligns dining policy with academic policy," said Professor Charles H. Stewart III, McCormick Hall housemaster. "IAP is considered part of the fall semester for much of what we do on the academic side at MIT."

"It is certainly true that first-year students are increasingly required to be on campus during IAP, so having a dining membership

Dining, Page 14

Kenneth A. Wright '47

MIT NEWS OFFICE

Kenneth A. Wright '47, a physicist who spent more than 60 years at MIT researching the effects of radiation, died Jan. 7. He was 88.

Wright's area of expertise was in determining the radiation doses required to sterilize, pasteurize and modify materials, and in verifying the effects of these doses on irradiated materials.

Wright came to MIT from the U.S. Army, where he worked on radar during World War II. Between 1947 and 1985, he worked as a physicist staff member of the High Voltage Research Laboratory in the Department of Electrical Engineering. In 1985, he became a half-time staffer in HVRL and in 1995 moved to part-time. During his career, he authored or co-authored more than 70 research papers.

Wright is survived by his wife, Marguerite (Fleming) Wright, four daughters, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held Jan. 12 in Lexington, Mass., where he lived.

Padilla Sentenced to Lenient 17 Years for Role in Conspiracy

By Kirk Semple

THE NEW YORK TIMES

MIAAMI

Jose Padilla, the Brooklyn-born convert to Islam whom the government once accused of plotting to detonate a "dirty bomb" in the United States, was sentenced Tuesday to 17 years and four months in prison for his role in a conspiracy to help Islamic jihadist fighters abroad.

The sentence was more lenient than the federal sentencing guidelines recommended and was a setback for the government, which had requested life in prison, the maximum.

In explaining her decision, Judge Marcia G. Cooke of U.S. District Court in Miami underscored the gravity of the crimes Padilla, 37, had committed. But she questioned the effects of the conspiracy, saying there was no evidence linking Padilla and two co-defendants to specific terrorism acts anywhere.

"There is no evidence that these defendants personally maimed, kidnapped or killed anyone in the United States or elsewhere," Cooke said. "There was never a plot to overthrow the United States government."

World Powers Agree on Sanctions Against Iranian Nuclear Program

By Nicholas Kulish

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BERLIN

The world's leading powers agreed Tuesday on a new set of sanctions against Iran to present as a draft resolution to the U.N. Security Council, but they did not announce details of the sanctions, which are intended to induce Tehran to give up its nuclear program.

The foreign ministers from the five permanent members of the Security Council — China, France, Great Britain, Russia, and the United States — met here in the German capital at the invitation of Frank-Walter Steinmeier, the foreign minister of Germany. They discussed new ways to crack down on Iran for uranium enrichment, which Western governments have said could eventually be used in a restarted weapons program.

"We are agreed on the content of the next Security Council resolution," Steinmeier said at a news conference after the two-hour meeting, without providing details. He was the only representative who spoke, and took no questions.

Without specifics on the proposed sanctions, it was unclear whether they would be much more extensive than previous sanctions or would be more of a symbolic gesture intended to demonstrate solidarity among the great powers. Russia and China, in particular, have resisted calls for harsher sanctions.

The proposed resolution will be submitted to the full Security Council within a few weeks, Steinmeier said.

The Security Council has twice voted to impose sanctions to stop Iran from enriching uranium, in December 2006 and March 2007. But the release last December of a declassified U.S. intelligence report saying that Iran had put its nuclear weapons program on hold in 2003 seemed to blunt the Bush administration's argument that Iran presented a threat.

Iranian officials seized on the report, the American National Intelligence Estimate, the consensus of 16 intelligence agencies, as evidence that their nuclear ambitions were civilian, not military. Bush administration officials countered that Iran had deceived the world about

mood after the sentencing.

"It's definitely a defeat for the government," said Jeanne Baker, a lawyer for a co-defendant who was sentenced to 15 years and eight months.

A spokeswoman for the U.S. attorney's office here, Alicia Valle, said the government was considering an appeal. While acknowledging the terms were well below what prosecutors sought, Valle said: "These are serious sentences that effectively dismantle a North American support cell for terrorists. That's a good thing."

The sentences, after a three-month trial and a seven-day sentencing hearing, closed a chapter in Padilla's odyssey, which began with his arrest in May 2002 at O'Hare airport in Chicago.

Attorney General John Ashcroft announced the arrest, saying Padilla was part of an "unfolding terrorist plot to attack the United States" by exploding a radioactive "dirty bomb" intended to cause "mass death and injury."

Padilla was identified as an "enemy combatant" and held without charge. In 2006, as the Supreme Court prepared to weigh the constitutionality of his detention, he was transferred to the civilian courts in Miami.

Padilla remained impassive at the hearing. The co-defendants smiled and waved to supporters and family members as marshals led them from the courtroom. Lawyers for the three promised to appeal the sentences and verdicts amid the somewhat victorious

a weapons program that could easily be restarted, and that Tehran was required to stop enriching uranium to comply with the Security Council resolutions.

"This is a swift reminder to the Iranians that they are not in compliance," a senior U.S. official said after the announcement. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity because the proposal had not yet been made to the full Security Council, said that the United States was happy with the plan, which would "take some of the previous sanction measures and strengthen them" and add "new elements."

The official specifically referred to the freezing of assets and travel bans, but said he could not elaborate because the foreign ministers were not releasing the text of the agreement until it could be shared with the 10 remaining, nonpermanent, members of the Security Council.

Despite the results of the intelligence estimate, the United States has been trying to keep the pressure on Iran. President Bush went to the Middle East this month to try to build a united Arab front against Iran.

Facing Wide Criticism, Israel Opens Fuel Lines to Gaza Strip Temporarily

By Steven Erlanger

THE NEW YORK TIMES

GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP

After widespread criticism of its decision to cut off supplies of industrial diesel oil required to run a power station that serves Gaza City and its hospitals, Israel resumed fuel shipments on Tuesday on what it said would be a temporary basis.

The European Union, which pays for the fuel, called the cutoff "collective punishment," but Israeli officials said they were simply trying to convince Gazans of the need to stop militants from firing rockets into Israeli towns and farms.

On Tuesday, Israel pumped in about 750,000 liters of industrial diesel, part of the 2.2 million liters it said it would provide for one week only to Gaza's main power station, which had shut down after its tanks ran dry.

On Tuesday afternoon, the plant started one of its three turbines, bringing power to parts of Gaza City that had been dark or running on generators. Rafiq Malha, the project manager for the station, said the 2.2 million liters would be enough to produce up

to 55 megawatts of electricity from the plant, which has a capacity of 80 megawatts with normal fuel supplies.

"But what do I do next week?" Maliha asked. "I have no reserves, so how can I plan? This power plant has nothing to do with the conflict and should be outside it." He and Suhail Sheik, manager of the Gaza Electrical Distribution Co., also criticized Israel for not allowing the regular importation of spare parts for a system that is rapidly wearing down.

Sheik said it was impossible for his company to separate electrical power to hospitals from the surrounding neighborhood. Even before the fuel halt, he said, there were rolling power cuts in Gaza of six hours or more.

Israel provides more than 60 percent of Gaza's power directly, and the Israeli Supreme Court has prevented the state from cutting that supply. But the court did not prevent Israel from cutting off fuel supplies, including gasoline. Egypt provides 7 percent of Gaza's power, but only to the south. The power station, a third owned by an American company, was bombed by Israel in the summer of 2006 af-

ter the capture of an Israeli soldier by Hamas.

Israel also provided 200,000 liters of regular diesel, with another 250,000 liters expected Wednesday; that fuel will be used for generators, especially at water-pumping plants, sewage-treatment facilities, and hospitals like Al Shifa, Gaza's largest, which functioned Tuesday on diesel provided to it on Monday by the World Bank, the Red Cross, and the United Nations.

Dr. Raed al-Arini said the hospital used 5,000 liters a day to run two generators to power dialysis machines, incubators with 30 children, the intensive-care unit of 15 patients, and operating rooms. "It was a miracle when we got 10,000 liters yesterday," he said. "Otherwise we would have had to shut down at noon."

But Gaza's oil companies refused Tuesday to deliver the diesel provided by Israel, saying that there was no fuel for them to operate their stations, which are empty. Mahmoud Khozendar, who helps run a family firm and leads the dealers' association, said that there was also little gasoline in Gaza.

Russia's Gazprom Takes Control of Serbian Oil Monopoly

By Judy Dempsey

THE NEW YORK TIMES

BERLIN

Russia added Serbia's oil monopoly to its recent string of energy acquisitions in a deal that will also allow Moscow to send more natural gas to Europe through its South Stream pipeline, it was announced Tuesday.

Four days after signing a major pipeline deal with Bulgaria, the Russian state-owned energy giant Gazprom agreed to buy a 51 percent stake in NIS, the Serbian state-owned oil company. The purchase was announced in a statement by the Serbian government.

The deal was yet another blow to the European Union's ambitions to build its own 2,000-mile pipeline to bring gas to Europe from Iran and Azerbaijan via Turkey, analysts said.

The EU's Nabucco pipeline project was conceived to allow Europe to reduce its dependence on Russia, which already supplies a quarter of the bloc's natural gas. Nabucco has been dogged by logistical delays, lack of political will and disputes over financing, the analysts said.

"As regards the deal between Russia and Serbia, we can blame the EU for some of this," said Borut Grgic, an energy expert and director of the Institute for Strategic Studies in Ljubljana, Slovenia. "In all its negotiations with Serbia when dealing with the future status of Kosovo, the EU never brought up with Serbia the issue of energy security and how Serbia could play an important role for Europe," he added.

In Wake of War, Congo's High Death Rate Shows Little Change

By Lydia Polgreen

THE NEW YORK TIMES

DAKAR, SENEGAL

Five years after Congo's catastrophic war officially ended, the rate at which people are dying in the country remains virtually unchanged, according to a new survey, despite the efforts of the world's largest peacekeeping force, billions of dollars in international aid, and an historic election that revived democracy after decades of violence and despotism.

The survey, released Tuesday, estimated that 45,000 people continue to die every month, about the same pace as in 2004, when the war had just ended and the international push to rebuild the country had scarcely begun. Almost all the deaths come from hunger and disease, signs that the country is still grappling with the aftermath of a war that gutted its infrastructure, forced millions to flee, and flattened its economy.

In all, more than 5.4 million people have died in Congo since the war began in 1998, according to the most recent survey's estimate, the latest in a series completed by the International Rescue Committee, an American aid organization. Nearly half of the dead were children younger than five.

Perhaps most alarming, while the death rate has slightly decreased in eastern Congo, the last festering node of conflict, it has actually increased in some parts of central Congo, though the area has not seen combat in several years. The study's authors and other aid organizations said that the focus of aid dollars on the east and neglect of the region by government were the most likely explanations for the changes.

Italy's Premier Tries To Patch Up Support

By Ian Fisher

THE NEW YORK TIMES

ROME

Prime Minister Romano Prodi defiantly called Tuesday for a vote of confidence in both houses of parliament, a move he hopes will keep his wounded coalition government alive. His longtime nemesis, the former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, kept up pressure for new elections he hopes will make him Italy's leader again.

"I think it can be done this time, too," Prodi told reporters, referring to the way his fractured government had weathered many crises in his 20 months in power. He spoke just before addressing parliament's lower house, demanding public votes of confidence on a government he defended.

But the day after the loss of a crucial ally threw Prodi's government into crisis, Berlusconi said Prodi's days were numbered and that elections were the only solution.

"I still expect him to try to wiggle out of it," said Berlusconi, who was defeated in April 2006 by Prodi and his center-left coalition. "But I hope that won't happen and that we can go straight to elections."

By the end of the day, no signs of easy resolution had emerged, as the full complexity of Italian politics — in which friends fight friends as often as enemies — revealed itself. The nation's president, Giorgio Napolitano, who will play a leading role in what happens next, remained silent on which option he favored.

Tokyo Markets Plunge as Global Investors Lose Confidence

By Martin Fackler

THE NEW YORK TIMES

TOKYO

From buoyant optimism just two years ago, the mood among foreign investors in Japan has swung to grim pessimism.

An intense sense of disappointment that the country has not kept promises to open itself to the global economy, combined with a global retrenchment of investment portfolios after America's housing-loan crisis, has proved particularly destructive to Tokyo's stock markets.

Even in the current global rout of world bourses, the size of the declines on Tokyo's stock markets stands out. Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 stock index has lost a third of its value since mid-July, and the Tokyo Stock Exchange has lost \$1.3 trillion in market value — equivalent to the entire economy of Canada. By comparison, major indexes in New York, London, and Frankfurt are down 13 to 16 percent since mid-July.

On Tuesday, the Nikkei plunged 5.7 percent, to 12,573.05, its biggest daily drop since the session after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

"People are giving up on Japan," said Patrick Mohr, director for equity research at Nikko Citigroup in Tokyo. "In this environment, investors want to see results. There is a perception that none of Japan's reform promises have come through."

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The Tech (ISSN 0148-9607) is published on Tuesdays and Fridays during the academic year (except during MIT vacations), Wednesdays during January, and monthly during the summer by The Tech, Room W20-483, 84 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Subscriptions are \$45.00 per year (third class) and \$105.00 (first class). **POSTMASTER:** Please send all address changes to our mailing address: The Tech, P.O. Box 397029, Cambridge, Mass. 02139-7029. **TELEPHONE:** Editorial: (617) 253-1541. Business: (617) 258-8324. Facsimile: (617) 258-8226. Advertising, subscription, and typesetting rates available. Entire contents © 2008 The Tech. Printed on recycled paper by Charles River Publishing.

Corrections

A page 6 photograph in the Jan. 9, 2008 issue of *The Tech* incorrectly named a song performed by the MIT Logarithms. The song was "Superlogs," not "In Praise of MIT (Take Me Back to the Tech)."

Letters To The Editor

Scientific Giants Held Theological Interests, Too

I am writing in response to a letter appearing in the Jan. 16, 2008 issue from Miguel Valenca Pires G ("Chaplain Position Is Affront to MIT Tradition").

I am bemused that the argument put forward by Mr. Pires in opposition to the appointment of a chaplain at MIT rests so strongly on the identity of the various scientific giants whose names are inscribed around Killian Court. While it is certainly true that D'Alembert was no friend of organized religion and Pasteur was lukewarm in his associations with the same, the other three men cited by Pires were all deeply committed men of faith.

Galileo, despite his woes engendered by the heliocentric model of the universe, remained a theologically orthodox Catholic all his life. Kepler's dream had been to enter the Lutheran ministry but he was forced to mathematics by economic necessity. His life's work never lost contact with his theological interests, however. He even published a small tract on his understanding of the relationship between science and the Scriptures, a text from which Galileo borrowed freely in his own work. Finally, Newton's connections with both orthodox faith and the world of the supernatural were so strong that John Maynard Keynes famously cited him as "the last of the magi" in the text he prepared for the tercentenary celebration of Newton's birth.

Whether MIT should have a chaplain or not is certainly a conversation worth having. I just hope that when we do so, we first comprehend the long scientific tradition to which we are heirs in its full intellectual complexity. This must inevitably include the many cases where devotion to understanding the natural world

was fully in harmony with the belief in, and worship of, the Divine.

Professor Anne E.C. McCants,
Head of HASS History Section

Clarifications About Original ASA Space Allocation Policy

There are several factual errors in *The Tech*'s article about the Association of Student Activities space allocation policy in the Dec. 11, 2007 issue of the newspaper ("ASA Allocates Student Group Space, Chooses Rooms for More Review").

I was ASA president in 1987 and 1988. I, along with Sonia L. Kuenzig '87 and John F. Kuenzig '88, wrote the original ASA space allocation policy. This policy was adopted by a unanimous vote of the ASA general assembly in 1987.

The errors are as follows:

1. The ASA executive board does not have the authority to amend the space allocation policy. Any amendments must be approved by the ASA general assembly.

2. ASA is a supragovernmental body and not a joint committee of the Undergraduate Association and Graduate Student Council. It actually has the authority to deallocate space to the UA or GSC, although this would be extremely unlikely.

3. The ASA's authority to reallocate office space is delegated from the dean's office, and ASA has always involved the dean's office in the process to minimize the chances for capricious reallocation of space. For example, our first act after passage of the space allocation policy was to revoke and renovate office space in Walker Memorial that had been abandoned for more than a year (there were squirrels living in the office). One of the offices was subse-

quently assigned to the Black Graduate Student Association for the BGSA Lounge. Another was assigned to small activities for storage.

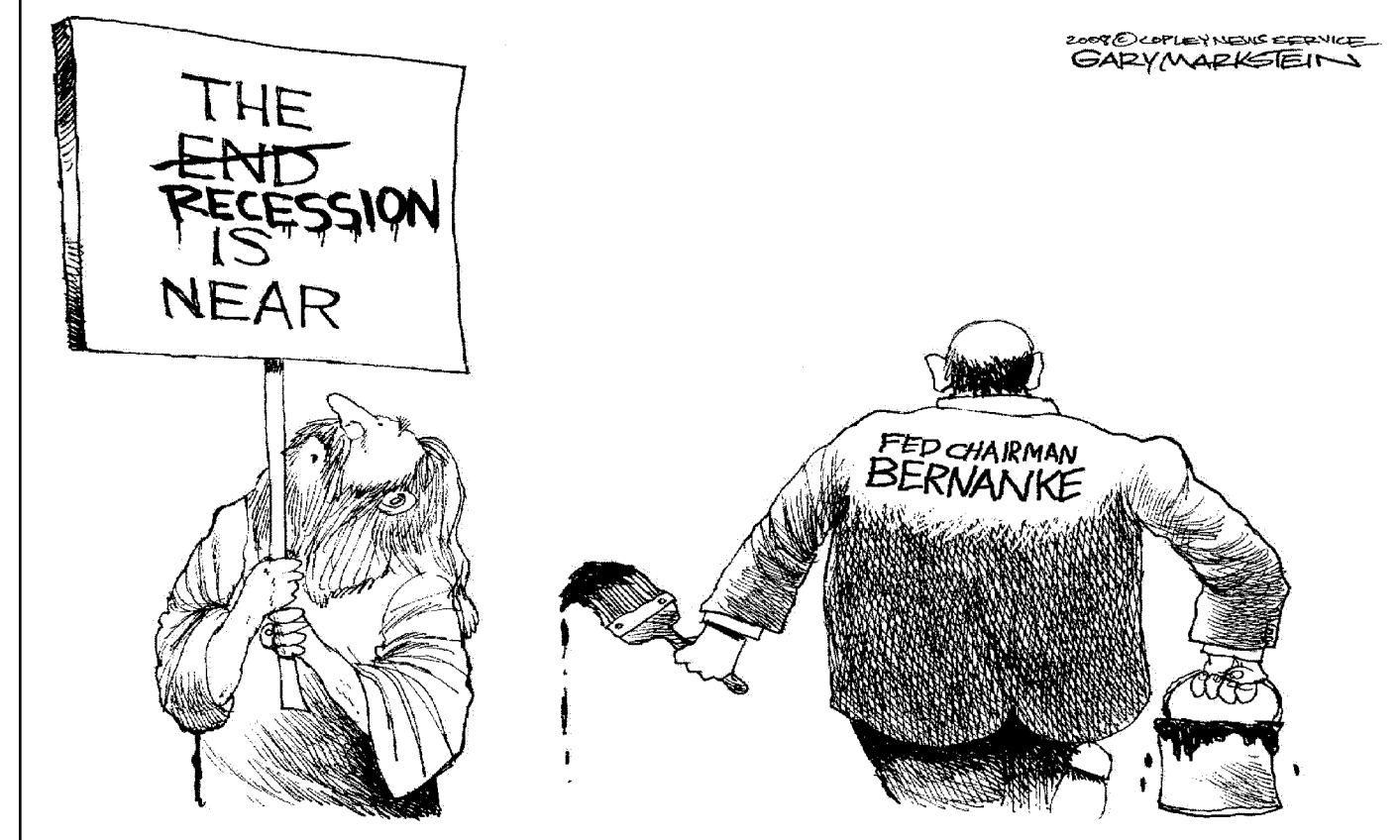
4. The two-step appeals process was deliberate, to slow down the process. We believed that ASA should not reallocate office space that was in active use and designed the process to make it difficult to reallocate space. A decision to reallocate space should be clear cut and non-controversial.

5. We believed that the office space of organizations with a long history at MIT, such as The Tech, Technique, WMBR, APO, LSC, Musical Theatre Guild, Tech Model Railroad Club, Voo Doo Magazine and the Science Fiction Society, would not be subject to reallocation unless the organizations became defunct. Most of these organizations predate ASA, the UA, and the GSC, and their office spaces were specifically designed according to their needs and designated as such in the original blueprints for the Stratton Student Center.

6. Walker Memorial has been in need of renovation for two decades. It was ASA's report on the condition of student activity space campus-wide, with a special focus on Walker Memorial, that spurred the creation of a space allocation policy. At the time Phillip J. Walsh and Victoria Sirianni told me that Walker Memorial would be given high priority for renovations.

7. A key philosophical basis for the space allocation policy was "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." If an organization was actively using its space, maintaining the status quo would promote the long-term success of student organizations at MIT. New organizations had to demonstrate some longevity before they could be allocated space and have a clear plan for how they would use the space. They also had to demonstrate how the use of the space would contribute to the organization and the community.

Mark Kantrowitz '89,
Former ASA President and
Managing Editor of *The Tech*



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CAMPUS LIFE

It's a Big, Big World

Up Close With Urban Poverty

By Diana Jue

STAFF COLUMNIST

On Commercial Street, one of Bangalore's shopping meccas, our group was on assignment to bargain for and purchase various items. While buying a pair of turquoise earrings, I felt a slight graze on my upper arm. I turned and faced a middle-aged Indian woman with a baby. She brought together the fingers of her free hand and raised them to her mouth, motioning an eating action. Then she cupped that hand, presented it to us palm side up, and looked at us pleadingly.

Throughout the rest of the afternoon, we encountered similar situations. Once we felt the graze on our legs. We looked down and saw a man who dragged his body and his non-functional legs along the ground. We were followed up and down Commercial Street by children trying to sell us plastic dolls and miniature chess sets. Sometimes the children had nothing to sell, because, as we quickly understood, they had nothing.

When my roommate and I finally returned home to our comfortable middle class residence, we nearly passed out from the experience. It was draining by all means: physically, mentally, and emotionally.

"In my life," she said, "I've never seen so much poverty."

As cities around the world are becoming centers of economic growth, they are also becoming the focal points of poverty. According to the United Nations Human Settlement Program, governments and local authorities use economic growth models that not only widen disparities between rural and urban populations but also between high- and low-income populations within cities. Many governments and international developers continue to treat poverty as a mainly rural phenomenon and neglect large-scale assistance to cities.

At 30 percent, India has the highest prevalence of urban poverty in Asia. News sources like *Business Week* and the *New York Times* preached Bangalore as the "Silicon Valley of India." However, when I arrived in the city, I clearly saw that funds were lacking. Infrastructure needed improvement; holes in sidewalks proved hazardous. Trash was strewn in the streets. Rolling blackouts were common. The Market Day activity showed me how poverty affects some of Bangalore's 6.5 million inhabitants.

It was relatively easy to see the deficiency of wealth in Bangalore. This was not the case in Buenos Aires, Argentina. I was initially in awe of how the city looked and felt like Europe. The French architecture, ornate theaters and hotels, spacious plazas, outdoor cafes, and even the blonde hair (natural or otherwise) looked as if they were photocopied out of a European travel book. Buenos Aires isn't nicknamed "Paris of the South" for nothing.

At the beginning, my classmates couldn't get over how comfortable they felt. Most of us lived with host families in Recoleta, a chic upper class neighborhood where the shopping and nightlife kept everyone entertained. The jewel of the city's new development, Puerto Madero, was a fantastic weekend hangout consisting of restaurants and retail along the waterfront.

Our first week of class quickly countered these first impressions. One site visit was to Villa 21, a *villa miseria* or "neighborhood of misery" located in the southern neighborhood of Baraccas. We entered Villa 21 as a group of 40 Americans and were appropriately stared at. Our guide heightened our paranoia by advising us to brace our bags, hide our cameras, and not make eye contact. Rain fell the day before, and as I was walking through the villa I kept my eyes on the ground to avoid puddles and dog droppings left by the strays on the unpaved roads. Most houses were single-story, roofed with corrugated tin, and built by hand.

One electricity line and one water line serve the 35,000-person settlement. Few people marry, but young people have children to receive government subsidies. Illegal activity is common, and informal markets range from real estate to drug dealing. Little social mobility is possible. The shantytown isn't considered an official part of the city (residents have no mailing addresses), and there is tension over



A view of Villa 21, one of Buenos Aires' *villas miserias*, or "neighborhoods of misery."

whether official city inclusion is beneficial. In the current situation, residents are living on government-owned land for free and don't pay taxes.

When my roommate and I told our host mother that our syllabus did not include sightseeing of Buenos Aires' top tourist spots, she was slightly angered. To show us how she experienced the city's good life, she personally took us on a tour of the wealthy northern neighborhoods' ritzy hotels, fancy promenades, and a new, glitzy international shopping mall.

My host mother liked to say, "Argentina is a rich country with poor people living in it." Given the general trend of Buenos Aires' development, I wonder how much longer she'll remember that poor people live there. As the city pours more money into areas that will attract foreign investment (i.e. shopping malls and developments like Puerto Madero) while neglect-

ing the poorer communities, well-off Buenos Aires residents will have more places that are geographically and psychologically distanced from the somber realities of their city.

The growing invisibility of the urban poor and lack of acknowledgment by their co-citizens unnerves me when I consider what could be done to ease urban poverty. In *The End of Poverty*, Jeffrey D. Sachs points out that problems in urban areas regard empowerment and finance. But if the wealthy are no longer attuned to the needs of the poor, how would they react to slum dweller organizations or to requests to contribute their tax dollars to service these areas? Fear? Dissent? Would political unrest be a problem? How much aid can realistically be implemented without the support of the entire population? These are all questions to consider as urban development and its counterpart, urban poverty, continue worldwide.

Brouhaha Rhythm

A Portrait of the Beaver as a Young Man

By Michael Lin

STAFF COLUMNIST

People often assume that we have relatively poor English skills just because we go to a school that's predominantly scientific and engineering-ic. That, of course, is simply not true. Well, not necessarily, anyway.

For my part, I'm quite literate (for you skeptics out there) and even rather enjoy reading, depending on the material. If I didn't have the cash flow of a parentally dependent college freshman, I'd call myself a book collector. As it is, I'm more of a book amasser, or a book depository sans snipers. Being the semi-compulsive thrift shopper that I am, I've accumulated a modest but significant personal library at home. I'm particularly proud of my reference section, which I plan on gradually relocating to my dormitory one three-pound tome at a time. Hopefully, by improving my at-home resources, I will need to leave my room for the library less and less, doing my part to perpetuate the myth that MIT students are reclusive and antisocial. No need to thank me — I'm happy to help.

In all seriousness, I like being able to have information on hand without defaulting to the Internet for all of my research needs. I can't even begin to tell you how handy my copy of the *MLA Style Handbook* has been for my "Works Cited" pages. I'm too stubborn to use www.CitationDoohickey.com or whatever it's called for the same purpose. The same stubbornness compels me to pull my all-nighters entirely without the aid of caffeine or energy drinks. Besides, some days, I'd rather thumb through my New York Public Library Desk Reference rather than click to Wikipedia if I want to know which fork goes where, or how much vodka separates a Screwdriver from Sunny Delight. It keeps my imminent carpal tunnel on its toes.

Considering how many peripherals I have hooked

up on my desk, hauling my laptop out of my room to go stargazing is too much hassle, especially when I already have three books on astronomy to bring with me. I continue to prefer a mouse over a touchpad, and finding a star map online takes too long in this winter weather, even if I'm virtually guaranteed to get better wireless reception out on the terrace rather than in my metal-encased room. Moreover, if I were to happen to fall off said terrace, I'm fairly certain that a book on first aid would survive the fall a lot better than my computer would, or I, for that matter. It's also nice to have something to read when all of my friends are too busy studying other heavenly bodies to hang out with me. Tragic, no?

My addiction to desk references aside, reading also helps me to de-stress, although if you're in a particularly book-heavy course, I can understand if you're somewhat less than sympathetic on that point. My girlfriend recently bought me *The Physics of Superheroes*, and I'm fully intent on using it as a supplementary text for 8.02. It's going to go on my shelf right next to *The Action Hero's Handbook*.

For those of you who remain unconvinced as to the importance of having a book collection, consider the last time you saw a mad scientist without a bookshelf that was more than meets the eye. (Your lab professor doesn't count as "mad," no matter how many times you've been set on fire.) Books have a litany of uses besides reading. If I were inclined to exercise, they'd serve as excellent free weights. I personally like being ironic and keeping my secret cash stash inside *Law and Economics* — or at least, I will, until just before this article goes to print. And if you still don't believe me, ponder for a moment how smart you'll look to the object of your affection with a shelf full of books on their interests as gleaned from their Facebook in mildly sleazy fashion.

Happy reading.

I like being able to have information on hand without defaulting to the Internet for all of my research needs.

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ARTS

MOVIE REVIEW ★ 1/2

Just Stay Home

'Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story' Is a Disappointment

By Kevin Wang

STAFF WRITER

Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story

Directed by Jake Kasdan

Written by Judd Apatow and Jake Kasdan

Starring: John C. Reilly, Tim Meadows, and

Jenna Fischer

Rated R

Now Playing

Do you like movies that fail to maintain any coherency whatsoever? How about comedies that are entirely lacking in any actual jokes? Or perhaps you're a fan of gratuitous full-frontal male nudity, strategically planted so that it surprises you at the least opportune times? If so, then "Walk Hard" is the movie for you. Otherwise, do yourself a favor and never see it, ever.

Rather than buying a ticket to see "Walk Hard," I recommend opening your wallet, removing a crisp new ten dollar bill, and lighting it on fire. It's an equal waste of money, is much quicker and less painful, and slightly reduces inflation. While I would love to describe at least a basic outline for the plot of "Walk Hard," I can't for the life of me manage to recall it having any sort of structure. It's fairly evident that the protagonist is a blues-rock artist by the name of Dewey Cox (played by John C. Reilly), and it's mentioned that he has a pet monkey, but the rest of the movie resembles nothing but a series of miscarriages of real cinematic scenes. The film tracks Cox's meandering career from a young blues musician through a number of genres and time periods, boring viewers at every turn. At first glance it appears to be a parody of the general music industry, but upon closer inspection it clearly can't be: parodies are funny and don't cause people's brains to ooze out of their ears.

The humor of "Walk Hard" generally op-

erates at something resembling a middle school level, which is probably misguided given its R rating. There is virtually nothing in the movie that one could consider a joke; "Walk Hard" instead relies on unnecessary nudity and absurd goofiness to form a hollow mockery of comedy. The simple reality is that past the age of 15 or so, the simple event of full-frontal nudity being presented in a shocking manner shouldn't qualify as humor, and if it does, you should probably use MIT's exceptional wireless connection and laugh yourself to death.

Despite its glaring, egregious flaws, "Walk Hard" does occasionally manage to dredge brief moments of genuine comedy from its seething morass of un-funny disappointments. A scene in which Cox's friend Sam (Tim Meadows) expounds the dangers of marijuana does contain many genuinely funny lines, and a sequence in which Cox meets The Beatles, although silly, does provide its fair share of humor. On the whole, however, I found the funniest element of "Walk Hard" to be Cox's ubiquitous monkey, which was frankly quite disappointing. If I want to see monkeys being ridiculous I would (and do) watch National Geographic, and it's disheartening that it would probably be much more humorous.

In 1984, the movie "This Is Spinal Tap"



GEMMA LA MANA—COLUMBIA PICTURES
Jenna Fischer (left) stars as Darlene Madison and John C. Reilly stars as Dewey Cox in the comedy "Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story."

was released, both mocking and reveling in the ridiculous elements of the music industry and accompanying lifestyle in a hilarious film. "Walk Hard" is virtually identical to "Spinal Tap," except that it is far less intelligent and

sucks, and the music is worse. This movie will make you unhappier, stupider, and worse-smelling just from being in the same room, and I strongly recommend against watching it. Go watch "Spinal Tap" instead.

THEATER REVIEW

A Crazy Combo

Monty Python's 'Spamalot' Is Unlikely Combination of Musical and Movie

By Diana Ye

STAFF WRITER

Spamalot

Boston Opera House

Jan. 15–27, 2008

The musical "Spamalot," just like its title, is simply ridiculous. But in a good way. The show tries to smash together the unlikely combination of Broadway Musical and of "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" (which it "lovingly ripped off"). This attempt is successful for the most part; the musical is wacky and good-natured and you can't help but be amused.

Naturally, one of the things you're going to get with a Monty Python musical is a good deal of randomness.

The general arc of the story is about King Arthur and his knights and their search for the Holy Grail, but don't expect anything like the original legend. Like its source material, "Spamalot" takes

Fans of the movie rest assured: many of the best gags and, more importantly, the spirit of the humor survive intact.

liberal and laughable liberties with the tale of King Arthur. (I don't think Malory ever referred to the Lady of the Lake as a "soggy old blonde with her backside in a pond.") Fans of the movie rest assured: many of the best gags and, more importantly, the spirit of the humor survive intact — from the sound of clopping coconuts to the Knights who say "Ni!" to the killer rabbit.

It isn't necessary to have seen the movie to enjoy the show, however, as long as you don't mind the offbeat, somewhat raunchy type of humor. With all the sexual innuendos, flying limbs, and (surprisingly gruesome) fake spouting blood, this is not a show for kids.

The show definitely emphasizes the laughs over the music. Song lyrics are usually far more interesting than the generic melodies that accompany them, but at least the melodies are all sung well. King Arthur was excellent with a deep voice that managed to sound amusingly petulant for much of the play without crossing over into annoyingly whiny. The Lady of the

Lake had a powerful and versatile voice, as her songs ranged from straight-Broadway numbers to showgirl jazz to American Idol-esque pop. Her large role is one of the many additions that the musical adds to the movie bits, along with various current references to American pop culture (Michael Moore, Britney Spears, even Tom Brady).

Sometimes, there does seem to be a different feel to the purely "Broadway musical" elements of the show and those that are lifted straight from the movie. Attempts to combine the two are transparent and often clumsy. One example is when the Knights of Ni tasked King Arthur with creating a Broadway musical; it was strange to see the knight launch into a rendition of "You Won't Succeed on Broadway" (without a Jewish person in your project)

in the middle of the search for the Grail. "Spamalot" tries to bring together two rather disparate genres, and those who love musical theater (and would get

the Jewish joke) and those who watch Monty Python might not necessarily be the same crowd. While I loved watching the monks hitting themselves with wooden boards in one scene and the Lady of the Lake poking fun at selfish Broadway stars in "The Diva's Lament" in another, I'm not sure these different elements coalesced into any sort of cohesive whole.

That said, it's Monty Python, so cohesion is not perhaps strictly necessary. Also, nothing could take away from the hilarity of the crazy sets and props. I mean, in what other show could you see the massive feet of God, spanning the width of the stage, blast off on jet propellers? Or how about a life-sized cow getting tossed over a castle wall? Or a colorful Camelot castle that looks like a cross between the Magic Kingdom at Disney World and the latest Vegas casino? I was amazed at the elaborateness and creativity of everything. Whether the humor of "Spamalot" appeals to you or not, the show is sure to be a unique and unforgettable experience.

EVENT REVIEW

Not a Misnomer

Chinese New Year Spectacular Lives Up to Its Name

By Diana Ye

STAFF WRITER

2008 Chinese New Year Spectacular

Divine Performing Arts Troupe

Boston Opera House

Jan. 12, 2008

A smoky mist swirls across your vision as beautiful maidens dance forth to ethereal music in a blaze of color and glory. No, you haven't died and gone to heaven; instead, this is the opening act of the Chinese New Year Spectacular show, which at its most transcendent makes you feel like you had (in a good way).

The touring company, the Divine Performing Arts, gave a show that consisted of clas-

sical Chinese dances, with a few musical numbers thrown in. Yet within these parameters there was an incredible amount of variety to be found — from the high grace of the Tibetan dance "Snowy Mountain, White Lotus," to the spirited beat of the "Drummers of the Tang Court," to the acrobatic accomplishment that was the "Mongolian Bowl Dance."

There were even several cleverly choreographed dances that told stories, some lighthearted, some more serious and political, all beautifully done. These dances were wonderful not only for their ability to convey a message, but for their successful melding of both classical and modern elements. I was impressed by the skill of the dancers and the authenticity of the dances. Different regions of China have distinctive styles and "flair," and the dancers and choreography were able to convey that. The excellent live orchestra (made up of both western and Chinese instruments) and the gorgeous costumes were fitting accompaniments to the performers.

Unfortunately, the musical acts did not hold up well compared to the dance numbers. The performers had marvelous voices, but the song choices were not exciting enough to

The dances were wonderful, not only for their ability to convey a message, but for their successful melding of both classical and modern elements.

backdrops and props would have been more stylized and thus less cheesy. Luckily, once the dancers got on stage, all eyes turned to them and away from the screen.

Another slight annoyance was the horribly hokey dialogue of the host and hostess. While their jokes were bad, however, at least the hostess was lovely and the host's enthusiasm was impressive as well (he wasn't Asian). And, again, the amazing performances were more than enough to make up for the corniness of the hosts in between.

All in all, the Chinese New Year Spectacular is a wonderful showcase of Chinese dance and music. It is both a great introduction to those unfamiliar with these aspects of Chinese culture and a great treat for those who love them. It is a show that definitely lives up to its name and is a wonderful way to ring in the new year.

MOVIE REVIEW ★★★ 1/2

Monsters Take Manhattan

'Cloverfield' Shows Attack a la 'Blair Witch'

By Samuel J. Cole*Cloverfield*

Directed by Matt Reeves

Written by Drew Goddard

Starring: Michael Stahl-David, T.J. Miller,

Lizzy Caplan, and Odette Yustman

Rated PG-13

Now Playing

The first thing you've probably noticed upon watching the various trailers and previews for "Cloverfield" is that the movie is shot as though it is being recorded by a personal camcorder. Luckily, this gimmick (which you probably remember from "The Blair Witch Project") is not the only thing the movie has going for it.

"Cloverfield" was directed by Matt Reeves and written by Drew Goddard, but the movie is in actuality the brainchild of J.J. Abrams. Abrams is best known as the high-adrenaline director of "Mission: Impossible III" and the upcoming "Star Trek" remake, as well as executive producer of the critically adored television hits "Alias" and "Lost." Anyone familiar with his body of work knows Abrams has a flare for the supernatural, over-the-top, sci-fi extravaganza. This movie is no exception, diving deep into this same genre. The larger budget provided, however, gives him endless creative possibilities, and needless to say his imagination was running wild when he thought of this story.

The movie follows the adventures of five friends — led by Rob Hawkins (played by Michael Stahl-David) — as they try to survive the onslaught of a monster attack on Manhattan. The movie starts off with Rob's friends throwing him a going away party as he is scheduled to take a job in Japan. Amidst conflict at the party as a result of the appearance of Rob's love interest, Beth McIntyre (Odette Yustman), the party is abruptly interrupted by the monster's initial foray into New York. For the remainder of the movie, Rob's best friend, Hud Platt (T.J. Miller), records the attack on a camcorder he conveniently had on hand for the goodbye party.

Thus, the chaos ensues with Hud giving



SAM EMERSON—PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Rob (played by Michael Stahl-David, left) and Beth (Odette Yustman, right) are terrorized by a monstrous creature in "Cloverfield."

his personal expletives for the attacks in each scene.

The level of suspense and tension in "Cloverfield" is maintained throughout. After the initial attack, the pace of the movie seldom slows for the viewer to take a breath. It authentically creates a level of fear seldom seen even in most of today's scariest horror movies. This is probably due to the combination of the first-person-style view given as well as the atmosphere created by the devastation in

New York. The special effects are as epic as any seen in most summer movie blockbusters and the movie pulls out all the stops to make moviegoers' jaws drop on as many occasions as possible. (Sights and sounds include the head of the Statue of Liberty landing like a meteor on a Manhattan street and army missiles zooming directly above the main characters' heads to topple buildings.) Furthermore, CGI and outlandish plot aside, the realistic characters in this story somehow keep this movie afloat and

believable despite the premise.

Although the movie will inevitably leave viewers a bit dizzy (sometimes there is way too much motion) and with a few questions typical of any J.J. Abrams experiment, qualms should be easily forgiven as the entertainment value of "Cloverfield" far exceeds most movies of recent memory. Even though the year is just beginning, this movie will most likely still stand as one of the best thrill rides 2008 had to offer come December.



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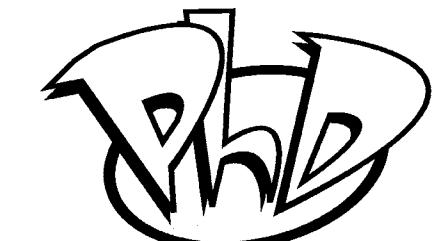
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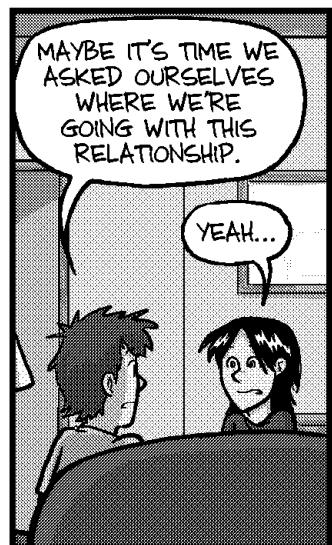
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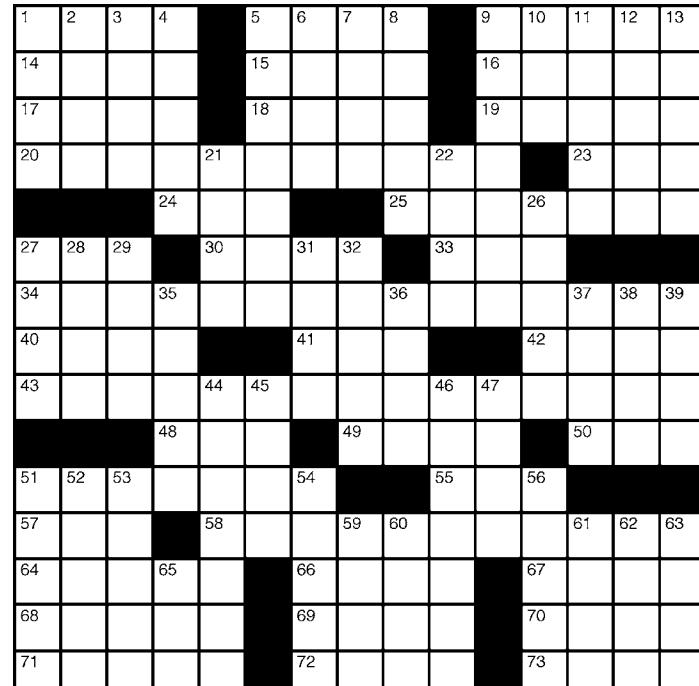
Solution, page 15

ACROSS

- 1 Starter starter?
- 5 Poker winnings
- 9 Damp
- 14 Poet Angelou
- 15 Artifice
- 16 Liquid measure
- 17 Hosiery shade
- 18 Biblical twin
- 19 Lowest deck
- 20 Start of Olin Miller quote
- 23 Black cuckoo
- 24 Doctors' org.
- 25 Turned outward
- 27 PC key
- 30 Chemical grouping
- 33 Vacuum's lack
- 34 Part 2 of quote
- 40 Wear out
- 41 Corp. head
- 42 Arabian gulf
- 43 Part 3 of quote
- 48 Notable time

DOWN

- 49 Ticket info
- 50 WWII landing craft
- 51 Passage
- 55 Ave. crossers
- 57 Gray soldier, briefly
- 58 End of quote
- 64 Violin maker
- 66 __-do-well
- 67 Suffer stiffness
- 68 Mountaineer's spike
- 69 Alum
- 70 Pack down tightly
- 71 Cubic meter
- 72 Evening in Bologna
- 73 River of New York
- 1 Old World duck
- 2 Apiece
- 3 Greek harp
- 4 Animals of a
- region
- 5 Get ready
- 6 River into the Wash
- 7 Russian ruler
- 8 "Green Eggs and Ham" author
- 9 Like nights in white satin?
- 10 Possessive pronoun
- 11 Dental filling
- 12 Doughy pastry
- 13 Lukewarm
- 21 Indian nursemaid
- 22 Gemstone from Down Under
- 26 Enlightened Buddhist
- 27 Italian wine region
- 28 Cafe au __
- 29 Neophyte
- 31 Social org. founded in 1858
- 32 Legal claims
- 35 Craps number
- 36 Mineral bonanza
- 37 Pastoral poem
- 38 Modernists
- 39 "Hunger" author Hamsun
- 44 Writer Caldwell
- 45 Downpour
- 46 Noted Dodgers skipper
- 47 Accusatory words to Brutus
- 51 Pitfalls
- 52 Pay the bill
- 53 Lesser
- 54 Grasping device
- 56 Use the rink
- 59 Used to be
- 60 Solar period
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- 63 Cried
- 65 Craggy hill



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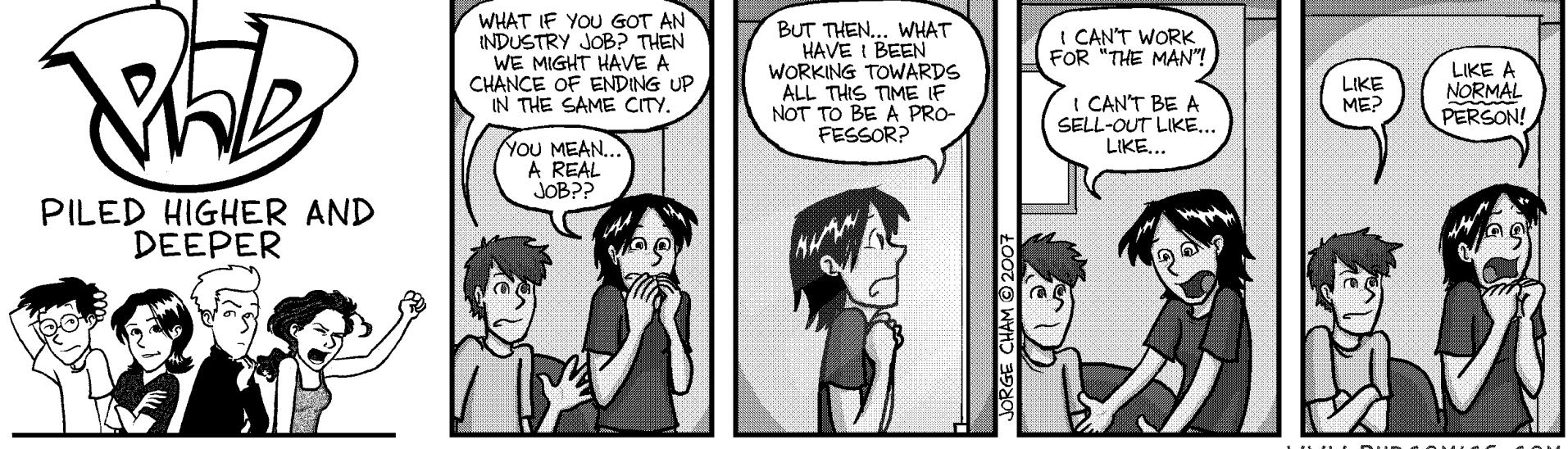
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Solution on page 15.

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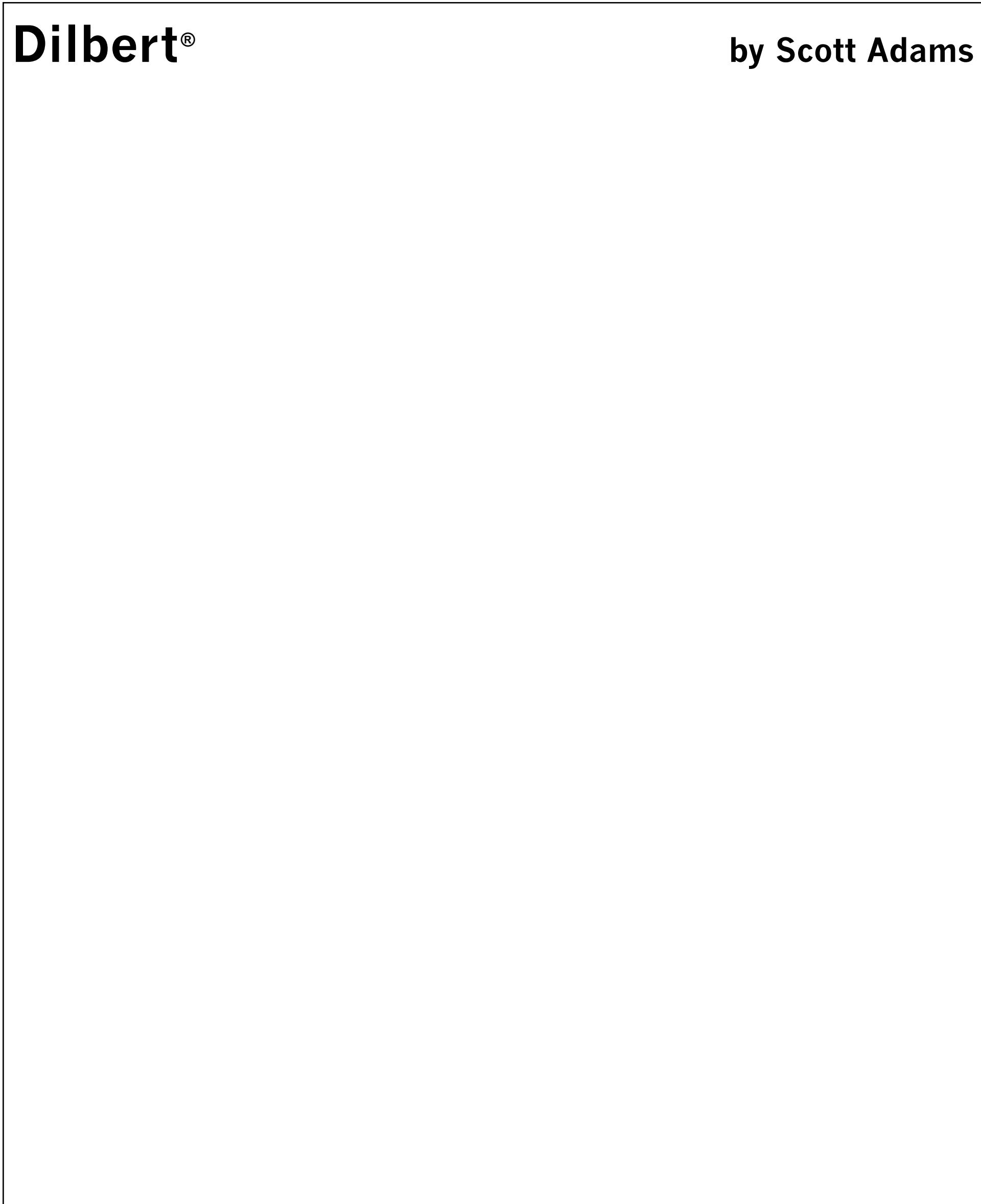
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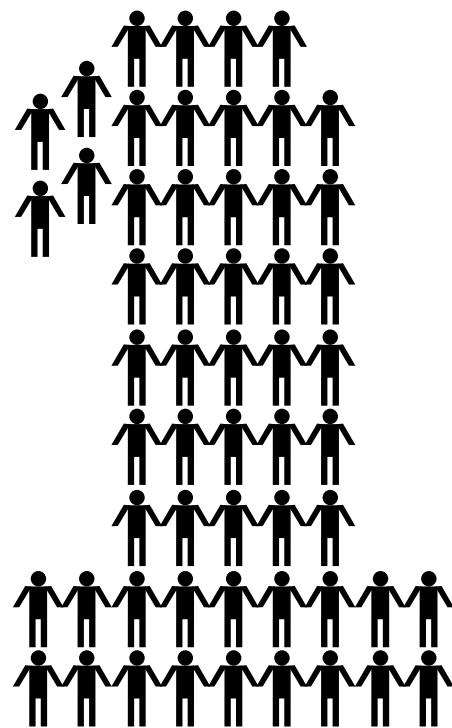
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Surge of Applicants Seeks Admission to Top-Tier Universities

By Karen W. Arenson

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Applications to selective colleges and universities are reaching new heights this year, promising another season of high rejection rates and dashed hopes for many more students.

Harvard said Wednesday, Jan. 16 that it had received a record number of applicants — 27,278 — for its next freshman class, a 19 percent increase over last year. Other campuses reporting double-digit increases included the University of Chicago (18 percent), Amherst College (17 percent), Northwestern University (14 percent), and Dartmouth (10 percent).

Officials said the trend was a result of demographics, aggressive recruiting, the ease of online applications, and more students applying to ever more colleges as a safety net. The swelling population of 18-year-olds is not supposed to peak until 2009, when the largest group of high school seniors in the nation's history, 3.2 million, are to graduate. The rise in applications at three universities — Harvard, Princeton, and the University of Virginia — came about as they ended early admissions policies, which had allowed students to receive decisions by mid-December, months ahead of others. The universities said early admissions benefited more affluent and sophisticated students and required students to commit without being able to compare financial aid offerings from various colleges.

The application figures suggested that the end of early admissions did not hurt. Princeton received a record 20,118 applicants, up 6 percent. The University of Virginia received 18,776 applications, a 4 percent increase. Like other campuses, Virginia said its final count was likely to increase slightly, because applications were still trickling in.

Scott White, the director of guidance at Montclair High School in New Jersey, said the school's college counselors found students tenser than ever.

"There is a pure level of panic

and frenzy like they've never seen before," Mr. White said last Wednesday. "There are some people who say that with some schools having ended early admissions, the frenzy must be subsiding. I don't think that's so."

Even at colleges, there was surprise over the surges, in part because they followed strong gains in previous years.

"These are amazing numbers," said William R. Fitzsimmons, dean of admissions and financial aid at Harvard, speaking of his university's flood of applications.

He said Harvard's announcement in December that it was sharply increasing financial aid even for families earning up to \$180,000 probably spurred applications, but, he said, the rise was visible even before that.

He said that the elimination of early admissions encouraged more interest, too, and that joint information sessions by Harvard, Princeton, and the University of Virginia drew "astonishing crowds."

The reasons for the swelling numbers — not all colleges have reported yet — go beyond the growth in the college age population and the preoccupation with name-brand schools. Recruiting by elite colleges among low- and middle-income students and in new regions are bringing in more applications.

California, for example, has become a bigger source of applicants for Cornell since the upstate New York university created a West Coast regional office in Los Angeles several years ago.

"Ten years ago, California was not among our top eight feeder states," said Doris Davis, an associate provost at Cornell. "Now it is among our top five." Cornell applications rose 8 percent.

At the University of Chicago, international applicants grew 23 percent, to 1,826, and early admissions applicants rose 46 percent, to 4,430, Theodore A. O'Neill, dean of admissions, said.

Janet Rapelye, dean of admission at Princeton, attributed some growth to outreach "to more students from many backgrounds, including lower socioeconomic backgrounds."

Some of the application increases undoubtedly come, too, from students applying to ever more colleges, in hopes of increasing their chances.

"There was a time when kids applied to three or four schools, then to six or seven schools, and now, 10 or more is not uncommon," said John Maguire, a higher education consultant.

Mary Beth Fry, director of college counseling at the Savannah Country Day School, a private school in Savannah, Ga., said she had held the average number of college applications at her school to five last year, but expected the number to climb this year because students were so nervous.

Michael E. Mills, associate provost at Northwestern University in Illinois, said the 14 percent growth this year had sent the number of applications to more than 25,000. To help it winnow the field, he said, it hired a new admissions dean, Christopher Watson, from Princeton, who was accustomed to rejecting many good applicants.

"We anticipated having to go down the path of having to make more difficult choices," Mr. Mills said, adding that Mr. Watson helped with "making very fine distinctions among very similar applicants."

Amgen-UROP Scholars Program

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Applications are now being accepted for the **2008 Amgen-UROP Scholars Program**.

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The Amgen-UROP Scholars Program is managed by the **Office of Undergraduate Advising and Academic Programming (UAAP)**, and is funded by a grant provided by the **Amgen Foundation**.

For more information, contact UAAP staff at amgen-scholars@mit.edu, or (617) 253-7306.

For details on Amgen Scholars Programs offered at other U.S. universities, visit <http://www.amgenscholars.com>.

mit.edu/urop/amgenscholars

Community Members Donate to Help Save Local Toscanini's Site

Toscanini's, from Page 1

stores in Harvard Square and Davis Square; both stores were closed in the latter part of 2006, he said.

The seizure also occurred at a bad time because "this is the worst time of the year for us," he said. "We're not very busy at all."

Toscanini's has been shut down before for not paying taxes. The shop was closed for one day in 2002, but "Gus got it reopened," Mimi Rancatore said.

Since then, "we've been running the business in a much more organized way," with business "much more profitable" than years earlier when the two other stores were open, Gus Rancatore said.

The Save Tosci Web site's forum for comments has been alive with people expressing both sympathy for Toscanini's situation and disdain for its attempt to raise money. "If people don't want to [donate], they

certainly don't have to do it," Gus Rancatore said. "We're not asking for a tax break. We admit we incurred this obligation, and we want to pay it."

According to Rancatore, the Internet has caused news of Toscanini's closing to spread to MIT alumni all over the world. He said he has received e-mails and donations from former members of the MIT community who are now at distant places like Italy and China. "Most [of the e-mails] have been incredibly sweet," Gus Rancatore said.

Reactions at MIT have been varied. "I don't understand why a for-profit company is requesting donations to stay afloat," James A. Ostrowski '10 said.

Emily A. Kramer '08 said that she has been to Toscanini's "quite a few times in the past few years." "It's really sad to see a small business get into trouble like that," Kramer said.



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The Life and Works of Doc Edgerton

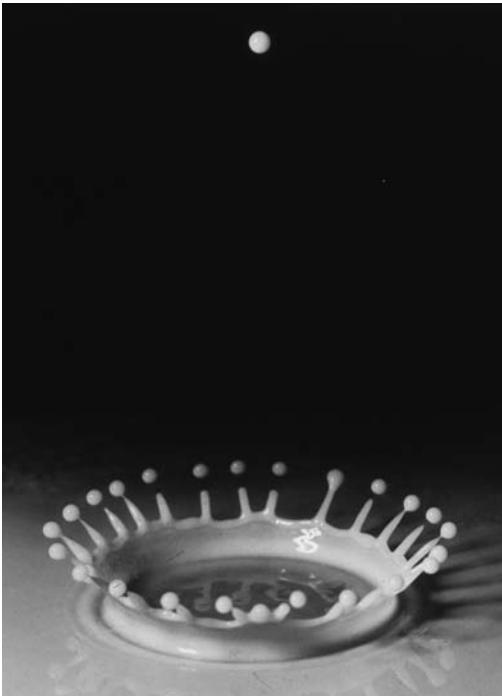
The Life and Works of Doc Edgerton

A presentation by Professor J. Kim Vandiver

Mon Jan 28, 4:00-5:00 PM, Room 34-101



Shooting Three Balloons, by Prof. H. E. Edgerton



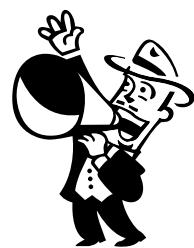
Milkdrop Coronet (1936)



Atomic Bomb Explosion (1952)

T-SHIRTS

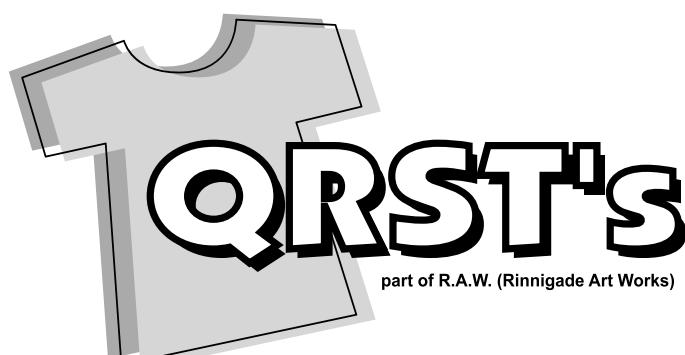
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Meal Plan Cost May Increase If Dining Continues IAP Discount

Dining, from Page 1

policy that corresponds with that reality makes sense, too," Stewart continued.

The extension to IAP originated from community feedback and low patronage at Baker House's dining hall, said Richard D. Berlin III, director of Campus Dining.

"Customer counts are up 100 to 150 percent each night, so it appears to be a good decision," Berlin said. "Even though we price the

program for the academic year, we decided to try an experiment to see if patronage would increase enough to partially offset the additional cost to the department."

The cost of this year's extension will be absorbed by Campus Dining and will not affect the price for next semester, Wilson said.

Berlin said that because students responded positively to the extension, Campus Dining would consider implementing the extension in future years, although in

order to fund such an extension, Campus Dining might increase the cost of House Dining membership. The amount of the increase, if any, would depend on a thorough accounting of the costs and profits of having more people eat at dining halls over IAP.

"Anything learned from this extension will be shared with the Campus Dining Advisory Board ... to determine the best way to address IAP and House Dining Membership in the future," Wilson said.



QUENTIN SMITH—THE TECH

Judges Christopher A. Schuh, Jacob K. White, and Kate Delaney (left to right) taste brownies at the 2008 Battle of the Brownies, sponsored by the Laboratory for Chocolate Science on Jan. 17, 2008.

makeKillerApp() {

for(x =0; x != kapp; ++x) {

if(x.uses(PICUP)) {

nextKApp=true;

break;

}

}

}

if(nextKApp) {

y = i;

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LSC Presents Sneak Peek of 'Jumper'



ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH



MARTHA ANGELA WILCOX—THE TECH

The Lecture Series Committee hosted a screening of the new film "Jumper" on Wednesday, Jan. 16 to a packed crowd in 26-100. After the screening, a panel of artists involved with the film — including director Doug Liman and actor Hayden Christensen — participated in a discussion and MIT Professors Edward Farhi and Max E. Tegmark lectured on the possibilities of achieving teleportation in real life.

(clockwise from below)

Christensen, star of the film, participates in the panel discussion.

A packed crowd awaits the start of the screening.

Laura A. Daher '08 poses a question to the panel of artists and scientists.

Liman participates in the panel discussion.



ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH



ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH

Solution to Crossword

from page 8

S	E	L	F	P	O	T	S	M	O	I	S	T
M	A	Y	A	R	U	S	E	O	U	N	C	E
E	C	R	U	E	S	A	U	O	R	L	O	P
W	H	E	N	A	P	E	R	S	A	N	I	
A	L	T	A	R	Y	L	A	I	R			
S	A	Y	S	H	E	W	I	L	T	H	I	N
T	I	R	E	C	O	A	D	E	N			
I	T	O	V	E	R	A	N	D	L	E	Y	U
E	R	A	S	E	A	T	L	S	T			
T	R	A	N	S	I	T						
R	E	B	K	N	O	W	Y	U	K	N	O	
A	M	A	T	I	N	E	E	R	A	C	H	E
P	I	T	O	N	G	R	A	D	T	A	M	P
S	T	E	R	E	S	R	A	E	S	A	E	T

Solution to Sudoku

from page 8

1	5	7	2	9	3	4	6	8
2	8	9	7	6	4	5	1	3
6	4	3	8	1	5	2	7	9
3	7	1	6	8	2	9	4	5
9	6	8	5	4	1	3	2	7
5	2	4	3	7	9	1	8	6
4	1	6	9	3	8	7	5	2
8	9	5	4	2	7	6	3	1
7	3	2	1	5	6	8	9	4

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Ronald Thomas, cello
Mihae Lee, piano

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<http://web.mit.edu/arts/see/freetickets/index.html>

MIT Forwards RIAA Letters to 19 Alleged Copyright Infringers

RIAA, from Page 1

dress to which a letter was sent could not be connected to an individual, Kennedy said.

Kennedy did not respond to numerous requests for comment this week and last week about the outcome of the October letters, and she declined to comment on the group of letters sent most recently.

One student may contest letter

An MIT student who said he received a demand letter contacted *The Tech* last week and said he plans to decline an early settlement and to fight the RIAA's subpoena. He requested anonymity because he wants to keep his identity from the RIAA.

The student, who said he was "the victim of a fishing expedition by the RIAA," said he did not want to settle because settlement would not prevent further legal action by the individual record labels the RIAA represents.

"I'm disappointed that MIT isn't going to step up," the student said. Other schools like Boston University and the University of Oregon have resisted RIAA subpoenas of student records more actively than MIT has, he said. Two BU computer science professors, Azer Bestavros and Jesse R. Stengel, gave sworn statements in July 2007 asking the Massachusetts federal district court to quash subpoenas that sought to identify BU

community members. The University of Oregon in November 2007 asked the Oregon federal district court to quash a similar subpoena.

The MIT student who received a letter said he would like to challenge the subpoenas by collaborating with other MIT students who have received letters, but he has been unable to find the names of the other recipients because those records are considered confidential by MIT.

In an Oct. 4 statement, Dean for Student Life Larry G. Benedict and Jerrold M. Grochow '68, vice president for Information Services & Technology, said, "Unauthorized downloading and sharing of copyrighted files is illegal, contrary to MIT policy, and a serious matter with potentially damaging consequences. MIT strongly discourages such unauthorized downloading and sharing of computer files."

The statement notes that in addition to pre-litigation notices from the RIAA, students may also receive takedown notices from the Motion Picture Association of America under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act for illegally-downloaded content.

The MIT Internet Services & Technology Web site discusses unauthorized file sharing. The site's contents, at <http://web.mit.edu/copyright/>, include MIT's most recent statements about the RIAA notices and about music downloading in general.

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Sophomores! Thinking about the Cambridge-MIT Exchange?

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See <http://web.mit.edu/cmi/ue>

2007 Mystery Hunt Organizers Win This Year's Hunt

Mystery Hunt, from Page 1

a series of puzzles linked to various suspects, contacts, and witnesses.

Arriving back at the headquarters of my team, named Too Much Clue (from Baker House), we surveyed the materials given to us at the kickoff. Among the items were Dr. Awkward's little black book (with most of the pages torn out) and a business card for a Samantha Oriflamme. Not long after, each team would receive the first of many e-mails from an Abigail Freebie, and the Hunt would be underway.

This year's Hunt was especially testing for my team; hours went by without a single solution, despite our valiant efforts huddled around laptop computers and a whiteboard on the top floor of Baker House. At 6:30 p.m. on Friday, four members of my team, including myself, had the opportunity to take a break from the hustle and bustle at team headquarters to attend a karaoke "memorial event" dedicated to Dr. Awkward in Room 2-190. In typical Mystery Hunt fashion, while members of other teams entertained us with such classics as "Baby Got Back," we had to focus on solving yet another puzzle hidden among the song artists.

By 8 p.m. that day, three teammates and I returned to Baker curious about whether the puzzle we solved at the party was our team's first solution. Perhaps unfortunately, it was. It wasn't all bad news back at base camp, though, as my determined team refused to give up so easily. Around 10 p.m., five team members and I ventured away from Baker House to begin what turned out to be my favorite task of the weekend. This puzzle, entitled "Race Around the Block," required us to split up into two groups and follow a set of instructions that would take us around campus. The catch was that the instructions were not given in order. Instead, each group had to determine which command to follow

based on various clues, such as the building number of the other group at a checkpoint.

Our first two instructions were to find the starting point of each group. One group had to begin at the location of the room with its number in neon lights; immediately, our team determined this was on the fourth floor of Building 10. However, the other starting point — the location where one could find one city three times on a red line — was not as easy to find. After deciding it was not a reference to the MBTA train or to a fire hose and after eventually calling the remainder of our team back at Baker, we were able to pinpoint the location in Building 9.

The complex set of directions would eventually lead each group to the starting point of the other group, creating a loop. By then, it was past 2 a.m. early Saturday morning. After meeting in Lobby 7, our two groups returned to headquarters, where we eventually solved the puzzle.

Several of my other teammates appeared willing to remain awake until past sunrise, but I had to get some sleep. The Mystery Hunt was far from over.

The late night meant a late re-unification with my team. Checking my e-mail, I had received a slew of e-mails, not only from my teammates, but also from the mysterious Ms. Abigail Freebie, who frequently updated us on the status of the investigation into Dr. Awkward's murder. Ms. Freebie also periodically sent out hints to all of the teams, aware, as the organizers would tell us during the finale on Monday, that the Hunt was not progressing as quickly as they planned.

One especially complex puzzle — particularly for my team — was entitled "Mystery Rallye" and included a map and a set of confusing directions for a vehicle. I, suffice it to say, would not touch that one with a 10-foot pole, especially after a few of my teammates informed me they



During team Groovytron's dance-off on Sunday in Lobby 34, a team member spins a Hula Hoop around his foot while lying on the floor. Several teams participated in the dance-off that provided a break from this year's Mystery Hunt.

had spent two hours just reading the rules and still failed to come up with an approach to solve it.

One of the newer puzzles, entitled "That'll Tichu to Mess With Us," required two of our team members to learn to play the Chinese card game of Tichu and then challenge two of the organizers to a match. Beginning around 6 p.m. that night, three of my teammates — Joseph S. Gionta '06, Garrett C. Robinson '09, and Diana J. Wallin '07 — and I spent the greater part of two hours perfecting the game. At 10 p.m., Diana and Garrett went off to play, and ultimately defeat, the Tichu masters at Hunt Headquarters.

Saturday night was an even later night for my comrades and me. However, Diana seemed to raise the spirits of my team with a 4 a.m. e-mail congratulating us on completing 20 puzzles and including a picture of a certain team member sleeping in the

lounge with his hands together, as if praying.

Sunlight had appeared above the horizon by the time I went to sleep, so I woke up on Sunday even later than I had the previous day. Sunday was also marked by the Patriots game, so (among other reasons) the team presence at headquarters was less impressive than earlier in the weekend. Still, as I discovered when I arrived that evening, we still solved a few tough puzzles over the course of the afternoon.

Furthermore, although the number of people physically present at Too Much Clue's headquarters was low, we had remote solvers from around the world (and just around campus) donating their time and knowledge to the Too Much Clue effort through the team wiki and countless Google spreadsheets and documents.

By 8 p.m. Sunday, my team's sights were focused on a different hunt: one for food. In order to solve this puzzle, seven of my team members, including myself, ventured to Copley Place for a (large) bite to eat. Ironically, it was during this time of food and relaxation, and not during our many hours of painstaking work, that the team received the e-mail that the coin — and Dr. Awkward's killer — had been found. And thus, at 8:26 p.m., the Hunt ended. Originally prepared to return to Baker for more hours of puzzle-solving, my team instead returned to shut down and clean up our headquarters, which had become flooded with papers, sunflower seeds, soda, and pizza boxes.

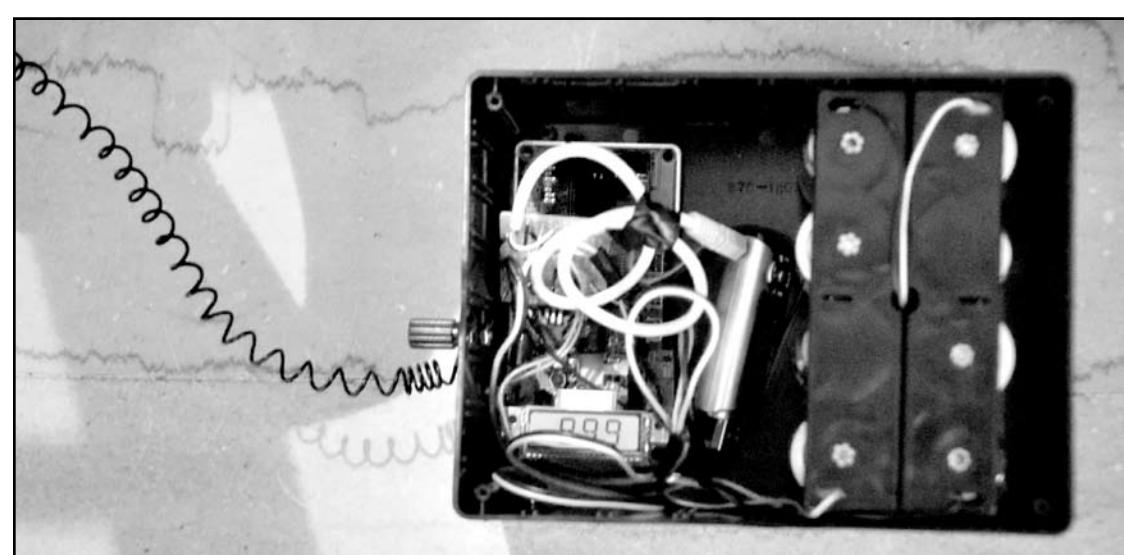
At noon the following day, Mon-

day, Jan. 21, a long 72 hours after the Hunt began, the teams all congregated in 26-100 for the wrap-up event. Team Death From Above provided an online simulcast so remote hunters could enjoy hearing from the organizers as well.

During the two-hour wrap-up, the organizers, Team Palindrome, shared some of the lighter moments from behind the scenes of the Hunt and explained the solutions to a few of the more challenging puzzles. The explanations drew a variety of emotions from the crowd — laughs, moans, and even hissing could all be heard. One puzzle, "Knots and Crosswords," was so difficult, the hosts joked that they considered making that puzzle alone the entire Mystery Hunt.

The hosts were particularly amused by the number of teams that were able to complete the puzzle entitled "Nationwide Hunt," which required teams to find six words on monuments and buildings scattered across the country (a challenge with which even Google couldn't help). A few teams reported calling strangers across the country, including people at San Francisco City Hall and a hotel in Miami, on their quest to find the answer.

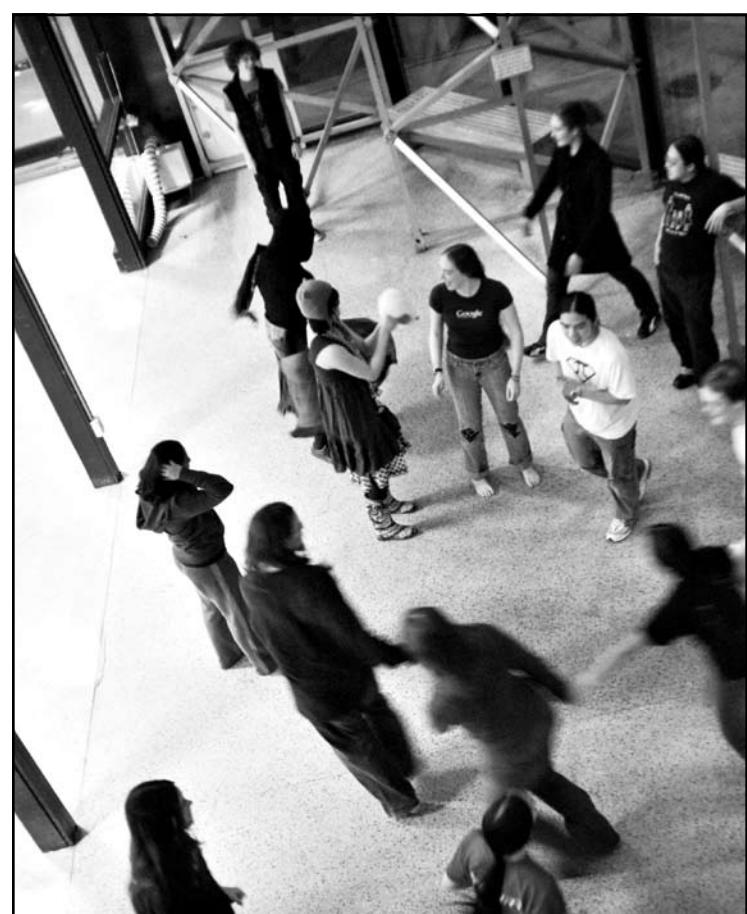
Near the conclusion of the ceremony, the organizers acknowledged and congratulated this year's winner, the peculiarly-named Evil Midnight Bombers What Bomb at Midnight. As winners of this year's Hunt, the Midnight Bombers have the privilege of creating next year's Hunt, just as they did after they won the 2006 Mystery Hunt. Perhaps next year's Hunt won't be such a killer ...



As one of the puzzles in the Mystery Hunt, this FM transmitter was hidden above the doors to Lobby 7. It repeatedly transmitted the word "needlepoint" to teams who figured out that the solution required them to take an FM radio to Lobby 7 and tune it to the correct frequency.



A police officer (played by Jenny Gutbezahl, left) from this year's Mystery Hunt opening ceremony skit talks to a team representative. Gutbezahl and Ed Poznysz, who also played a police officer, registered teams for the Hunt after the skit's conclusion on Friday, Jan. 18.



As a break from the toiling of this year's Mystery Hunt, team Groovytron hosted a dance-off on Sunday at 6:30 a.m. in Lobby 34.

Red-Zone Plays Key Patriots Win; Giants Survive Missed FGs

NFL, from Page 20

previous Patriots victories that relied on churning out passing yards. In many ways, it harkened back to Brady games in years past: the offense was not perfect, but it produced scores when it mattered. And, of course, the defense didn't allow any touchdowns.

Though Brady tossed three interceptions — remember, turnovers were supposed to key any potential Chargers victory — the San Diego offense could not capitalize. Quarterback Philip Rivers was hampered by his two bad knees, and the right one required surgery the Monday before the game. Though his movement was better than anticipated, Rivers was still unable to complete throws he probably would have made at full strength.

Star running back LaDainian Tomlinson was a non-factor, providing only five yards on two carries before riding the bench for the rest of the game. Tight end Antonio Gates was similarly ineffective, catching only two passes for 17 yards.

The way the Patriots won may have been uglier than usual, but the end result was the same — and when it comes down to it, that's really all that coach Bill Belichick and the Patriots care about.

Giants defeat Packers, 23-20 (OT)

This wasn't how the story was supposed to go. The Packers were supposed to be on a plane to Arizona, Tom Coughlin and the Giants were supposed to be on a flight back east, and we were supposed to be here writing about quarterback Brett Favre's ageless greatness. We're not sure we can even bring words to our level of disappointment. This week was supposed to be a debate over which MVP is the better playoff quarterback: Brady or Favre?

Instead, we get the Giants, a team that has continued to find a way to win despite being heavy underdogs. A team led by Eli Manning, who has defined these playoffs not by the plays he's made but by the interceptions he hasn't thrown. A team that managed to survive the conference championships, despite kicker Lawrence Tynes missing two potential game-winning field goals of 43 yards with 6:49 remaining and 36 yards as time expired.

Super Bowl XLII: Who's your pick?

Send us your thoughts at nfl@the-tech.mit.edu.

While we won't argue over the merits of the younger Manning, let's instead concentrate on the real story of this team: the defense. The story of this game wasn't the elevated play of wide receiver Plaxico Burress, or the energized runs of rookie Ahmad Bradshaw. It was the Giants' defense, reborn this year under the guidance of Steve Spagnuolo.

Despite its banged-up secondary, the defense neutralized Green Bay's passing attack, making Favre look pedestrian. Instead of sitting back and playing conservatively, the Giants were opportunistic, and that aggressiveness led to the final interception in overtime by cornerback Corey Webster.

The Packers run game was held to under 30 yards, which made ball control a serious issue for the Packers. The Giants ended up with almost a 2-to-1 advantage in time of possession, while the Packers failed to pick up a first down after the third quarter.

If this really is the last of Favre, in 10 years, will you really remember his interception in overtime against the Giants? You shouldn't. The first thing you'll remember is the image of him running across the field, helmet raised high, smiling like a kid. The next thing you'll remember is Favre defeating the Patriots in Super Bowl XXXI to cap his second MVP season.

Had the Packers won, the upcoming game would have looked all too familiar. Ten years ago, the legendary John Elway led the Denver Broncos — amid rumors of Elway's imminent retirement — to a Super Bowl victory over the Packers, despite being double-digit underdogs. Ah, if only Favre could return the favor to Brady's Patriots this year.

Legends are created by their careers and defined by their successes, but fondly remembered by their farewells. Elway left us carrying away his second Lombardi Trophy. Jordan left us with a smooth fadeaway that capped his sixth championship. Sampras left us with one last U.S. Open victory. For Favre, toppling the 18-0 Patriots would have surpassed them all.

Maybe next year.

Track Dominates Weekend Meet

MIT hosted a track and field meet at the Johnson indoor track Saturday. (right) Shawn S. Conrad '11 retakes the lead from a Bates College runner during the second leg of the men's 4x800-meter relay. The all-freshman relay team finished first in 8:15.08, missing the freshman 4x800-meter record by just under 10 seconds. The men's team dominated, finishing with 211 points to Bates College's 93 and Colby College's 43.

(below) Adrienne M. Bolger '09 hands off the baton to Andrea E. Bradshaw '09 during the 4x400-meter relay. The women's team finished the meet with 178.5 points, beating Bates College (158 points), Colby College (136 points), and the University of Southern Maine (120.5 points).

Photography by Omari Stephens



NHL's Brutality, Speed, and Limited Viewing Options Hurt Public Appeal

NHL, from Page 20

the NHL out of that group yet.

For some time now, the NHL has struggled to draw more fans to the game. The league has altered its rules to try to shorten the games and boost scoring. It has changed scheduling to try to give fans more must-see games against rival teams. It has claimed attendance records for the past few seasons, with the implication that "more people must like the game."

Perhaps the league is right. Perhaps it's not that interest in hockey has waned over the past decade, but just that other sports have started becoming more popular on television and in society.

Here are six reasons why the NHL doesn't have fans:

1. Most people have never played

the game. It's easy to get into basketball: as a kid, we can go out onto our driveways or our local courts and shoot hoops, even by ourselves. Almost every child growing up in the suburbs with any athletic interest plays Little League Baseball, which gives us exposure to the game, even if we never end up liking it. But for hockey, the barrier to playing the game is seemingly insurmountable for the average kid. We need skates, sticks, pucks, pads, a rink, a net, etc. It's simply not as easy as taking a ball out to play catch.

Never having played the sport, it makes it difficult for people to truly connect with the game as a fan. There's valuable insight and appreciation that comes with learning how to play a sport, which most fans miss by never even putting on a pair of skates.

Note that this argument fails when we consider soccer. Youth soccer is probably more popular than Little League Baseball, but MLS just doesn't compare to MLB.

2. Most people can't differentiate between good plays and bad plays. Or, to phrase it better, most people don't understand the strategy behind plays. When a winger makes a great play to stay on sides, the average fan doesn't appreciate it. How can we gasp at Sidney Crosby's skill the same way we admire LeBron James' impressive dunks? On top of that, too often it seems like most of the goals scored are by luck. ("They can't really control where deflections go, can they?") Unfortunately, it's just hard to see and appreciate greatness.

3. Most people don't know the players. It's hard to build hype around a player if we don't see him or her develop, and without a more prominent minor league system, players burst into the league virtually unknown. The American Hockey League may serve as a stepping stone to the NHL as far as training young players, but media coverage just doesn't compare to that of college football or basketball. Even minor league baseball is big enough that the average Red Sox fan knew who Jacoby Ellsbury was before he played his first major league game.

4. The game is too fast for most people. The league has made rule changes over the past decade to help

cut down whistles and shorten the length of the games, but the game itself is too fast to follow. It's not like football or baseball, where the plays are short and spectators can catch their breaths. If we look away for even a few seconds, we can easily miss a goal.

Note that an easy counterexample to this is basketball, but at least in basketball there's more of a variation of pace. Plus, it takes forever for some teams to get down the court these days.

5. The game is brutal. Women (and many men too) tend to dislike brutality, but there's really no way to limit the hitting and still call it hockey. Even without the fighting, hockey has more contact than any other major sport, and I could see why some people would tend more towards the peaceful baseball.

6. Games are broadcast on Versus (formerly the Outdoor Life Network). After the NHL eliminated the 2004-05 season because of a labor dispute, ESPN decided not to continue broadcasting NHL games when they returned in 2005, claiming that the programming they replaced it with did better than the NHL. The move was a win-win situation for ESPN and Versus, but a big loss for the fans. Not only do the ESPN networks reach more people than Versus, broadcasting hockey on ESPN allowed people to stumble across the sport when they weren't expecting it. I doubt Versus, along with the few games NBC picks up, is as powerful.

Game Three of the Stanley Cup Finals last year on NBC was the lowest-rated prime time program ever (not just counting sporting events). It doesn't matter what the NHL says about its attendance; clearly something's wrong.

So, how can these problems be fixed? I have no idea, but lucky for me, I'm not getting paid to do so.

What I can do, though, is encourage people to try it out. If you're not a fan, give it a try (if you've read this far, you must be curious). Check out the NHL All-Star game this Sunday night at 6 p.m. ... if you can find a television with Versus. If the stars can't impress you, no one will.



Adele D. Phillips G defends against a player from the Brandeis University women's ultimate frisbee team. The MIT women's ultimate team "sMITE" played a scrimmage against the Brandeis Ban-shees Sunday, Jan. 20, 2008, at the Johnson Indoor Track.

Strong Performance A Positive Indicator For Balanced Team

Volleyball, from Page 20

another a few points later closed out the game, 30-27, leveling the match at one game apiece.

The third game started out as close as the first two games, with both teams making spectacular plays. After being tied 18-18, Springfield established a small but consistent lead that they carried to the end, securing the third game 30-26.

Springfield continued their run into the fourth game, building an early lead. MIT countered with an 8-2 run, bringing Kenneth K. Rosche '08 into the game to give Springfield a different look at its outside hitting.

Despite the Engineers' efforts, Springfield demonstrated why it is the top-ranked team in the country, controlling the net game with its blocks and building a lead that at one point reached nine points.

Co-captain Ryan G. Dean '08 led the team with 16 digs. Philip M. Rogoz '10, a member of last year's NECVA All-New England Division First Team, continued his strong play at setter to garner 44 assists, although he struggled with his serve at times. T. Scott Pollom '09 led MIT at net with eight blocks, and Pamidimukkala led the hitters with 20 kills.

While Saturday's result was not what the team was hoping for, the outlook is still promising for a team that returns all of its players from last season.

Augmenting last year's squad are three freshmen, all of whom look to adapt quickly to the college game. Timothy R. Lee '11, who was *The Boston Globe's* High School Volleyball Player of the Year, made his collegiate debut last Thursday night against Mount Ida College. He'll continue to work on his timing as he learns to gel with the Engineers' potent offense.

Lee enters MIT alongside Garrett L. Winther '11, who Pam-

dimukkala calls "one of the most versatile players" on the team. Winther had a huge game against Springfield, executing on kills at key points in the first game. Rounding out the new class is Bean, a natural athlete whose high vertical leap will no doubt help him as an outside hitter.

The strong freshman class is a "huge testament to where this program's headed," says Pamidimukkala. Now in his senior year, Pamidimukkala was a part of Coach Paul Dill's first recruiting class four years ago.

The team looks to repeat this year as NECVA New England Division champions and improve upon its quarterfinal finish in last year's NECVA Tournament. A win in that tournament would secure the team a birth in the Molten Division III Men's Invitational Volleyball Championship, the equivalent of college volleyball's Final Four. Through Dill's guiding vision, Pamidimukkala believes that "this is the year that we're going to make it happen."

Saturday's strong performance was also impressive considering the team has only been practicing together for less than two weeks since coming back from winter break.

"The loss helped us figure out what we need to work on in practice," said Pamidimukkala. He reiterated that playing top-notch teams like Springfield last weekend and Harvard later in the year is important to development as a team.

The Engineers opened their 2008 campaign last Thursday in the exact same fashion as they opened the last two years, with a straight-set win over the Mount Ida Mustangs, their fellow NECVA New England Division team, 30-14, 30-12, 30-19.

MIT continues its season Thursday night at home against conference rival Elms College. The Engineers swept Elms in both of their meetings last year.

Poor On-Field Play Only Enhances Questions About Off-Field Choices

Owens, from Page 20

Simpson in Cabo San Lucas during the Cowboys' bye weekend, earning him a tearful defense from T.O. after playing poorly.

Normally, I'm all right with a little crying in sports. (Hell, one of my favorite college basketball players ever was Duke's J.J. Redick. To put it mildly, he had rather prolific tear ducts.) Tears show that the athlete cares enough about his sport and his team to show a little emotion. And I'm certainly all for teammates supporting each other. But this situation is just ludicrous, particularly when T.O. went the Dane Cook way of protecting his current quarterback. This involves choosing a few key phrases, then blubbering and repeating them: "It's really unfair. That's my quarterback."

Well, what's actually unfair is the amount of negative press T.O. generated for Donovan McNabb, especially when McNabb's Eagles reached the Super Bowl and Romo's Cowboys haven't even reached the NFC Championships. It's also unfair to defend potentially inadequate preparation and attack exhaustion after a number of hard hits. Given the choice, I would prefer to know that my quarterback left everything he had on the field.

The academic equivalent of McNabb's situation would be a student studying hard, and finding a problem on a test that he just couldn't solve. The equivalent of Romo's situ-

ation would be a student blowing off study time altogether, or at least looking like he hadn't prepared as much as he could have.

But if the bottom line is an athlete's actions on the field, why does this even merit a mention? After all, professional athletes deserve their privacy just like everyone else, right?

Well, that's debatable. In an ideal world, people would recognize that celebrities deserve to keep their personal and work lives separate just like everyone else. However, we live in America, a country that has virtually no delineation between private and public lives. To think that such a vacation would go uncovered is incredibly naïve, particularly given Simpson's tendency to occupy the limelight. And it's hypocritical of T.O. to decide that it's unfair for the media to ask questions about a bye-weekend getaway, but okay for him to directly question his quarterback's fitness.

Physical abilities aside, it is a professional athlete's job to minimize distractions. At the very least, a smart athlete does not bring distractions upon himself. And Jessica Simpson qualifies as a very blonde distraction. Note that this is different than New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady dating Gisele Bundchen or Bridget Moynahan. Brady is notoriously careful about trying to keep his private life separate from his duties as quarterback. Even when the news leaked that Moynahan was

pregnant with Brady's child, Brady managed to keep his focus on football. You may also notice that neither Bundchen nor Moynahan ever wore pink No. 12 jerseys with the intention of attracting attention to herself, as Simpson did with her No. 9 jersey.

Furthermore, much of Simpson's fame is based on how many cameras follow her every move. As a reality television star, she invited cameras into her life on a daily basis. Romo has done the same by association.

There is also a sharp contrast between Romo's situation and the Randy Moss situation, in which Moss was accused of dating violence. The Patriots have chosen to voice their support for Moss, but without making a huge show out of it by voicing the company line: We support Randy, and we hope the situation resolves itself. There is no finger-pointing and there are no tears, and the result is that the Patriots remain focused on the Super Bowl.

Ultimately, professional athletes are allowed to do whatever they want in their downtime. They're paid to play on the field, not to lead wholesome lives off it. But the catch-22 is that this rule only applies if they still perform well. Because Romo chose to spend his weekend with a high-profile celebrity and then lost the next game, it should have been obvious that people would suggest Simpson was a distraction. T.O. would do well to enlighten himself of this truth.

SCOREBOARD

Men's Basketball

Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2008	
MIT (9-6, 1-2 NEWMAC*)	58
Coast Guard (10-3, 1-2)	64
Saturday, Jan. 19, 2008	
Springfield College (5-10, 0-3)	58
MIT (10-6, 2-2)	75

Women's Basketball

Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2008	
Wellesley College (4-9, 1-2 NEWMAC)	53
MIT (6-6, 0-2)	54
Saturday, Jan. 19, 2008	
MIT (6-7, 0-3)	52
Babson College (7-8, 2-1)	69
Monday, Jan. 21, 2008	
MIT (7-7, 0-3)	56
Eastern Nazarene (4-10)	33

Women's Gymnastics

Saturday, Jan. 19, 2008	
Ursinus College (4-0)	181.650
MIT (3-2)	179.075
Rhode Island College (1-4)	165.150
Wilson College (0-4)	160.750

Men's Ice Hockey

Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2008	
Bridgewater State (6-7-0, 0-5-0)	3
MIT (7-1-0, 5-1-0 NECHA§ Conf. A East)	11
Saturday, Jan. 19, 2008	
MIT (8-1-0, 6-1-0)	6
University of New England (0-9-1, 0-6-0)	2

Women's Ice Hockey

Friday, Jan. 18, 2008	
MIT (0-9-1, 0-8-1 ECAC† East)	2
Plymouth State (0-11-1, 0-9-1)	2
Saturday, Jan. 19, 2008	
Nichols College	0
MIT (0-9-1, 0-8-1)	2

* New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference

§ NorthEast Collegiate Hockey Association

† Eastern College Athletic Conference

£ North East Collegiate Volleyball Association New England Division

Men's Swimming and Diving

Saturday, Jan. 19, 2008	
Colby College (2-3)	94
MIT (4-0)	176
Sunday, Jan. 19, 2008	
Springfield College (1-8, 1-2 NEWMAC)	117
MIT (5-1, 3-1)	181
Sunday, Jan. 19, 2008	
Coast Guard Academy (6-2, 5-0)	154
MIT (5-1, 3-1)	144

Women's Swimming and Diving

Saturday, Jan. 19, 2008	
Colby College (2-3)	124
MIT (4-2)	170
Sunday, Jan. 20, 2008	
Springfield College (5-6, 4-0 NEWMAC)	154
MIT (5-3, 4-2)	146
Sunday, Jan. 19, 2008	
Coast Guard Academy (2-7, 2-4)	79
MIT (5-3, 4-2)	221

Men's Track

Saturday, Jan. 19, 2008	
MIT	211
Bates College	90
Colby College	43

Women's Track

Saturday, Jan. 19, 2008	
MIT	178.5
Bates College	151
Colby College	127
University of Southern Maine	120

Men's Volleyball

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2008	

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SPORTS

Eight-Ranked Men's Volleyball Outlasted By No. 1 Springfield

By Shreyes Seshasai

SPORTS EDITOR

Fans filled the stands in Rockwell Cage Saturday night as the MIT men's volleyball team, ranked eighth in the nation, hosted the top-ranked team in the country, Springfield College. In their second match of the season, the Engineers fought hard against the Pride, managing to take a game off them before eventually losing 30-27, 27-30, 30-26, 30-25.

The match remained close throughout the four games, with no team able to build a substantial lead. Nerves from the tough matchup, along with early season rust, contributed to errors on both sides of the net. At one point both teams combined for four straight service errors, a problem that plagued the teams throughout the night.

After being tied 11 different times early in the first game, Springfield pulled away to a 25-19 lead,

Volleyball, Page 19

Tech Athletes of the Week: Amy E. Jacobi '11 and Michael J. Dobson '11

Amy E. Jacobi '11 helped the women's swimming and diving team capture a 170-124 victory over Colby College on Saturday afternoon, placing first in four different events. MIT swept the top three positions in the 50-yard freestyle with Jacobi clocking in at 24.64 seconds, just ahead of teammates Sarah B. King '10 (25.93 seconds) and Ashley E. Pinchinat '10 (26.46 seconds). She also earned victories in the 100-yard (54.42) and 500-yard (5:10.50) freestyle events. Jacobi's fourth victory came as the lead on the 200-yard freestyle relay team, with teammates King, Jacquelyn M. Nowicke '08, and Pinchinat, who won with a time of 1:43.13.

On Sunday, Jacobi followed up her performance with victories in three separate events. The rookie finished first in both the 100-yard backstroke (1:01.62) and the 100-yard butterfly (59.97). She ended her day by leading off the 400-yard freestyle relay team with teammates King, Pinchinat, and Sasha B. Brophy '08, who touched the wall first with a time of 3:44.91.

Michael J. Dobson '11 broke the Institute record in the 1,000-yard freestyle in Sunday afternoon's men's swimming and diving tri-meet against New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference opponents Springfield College and the United States Coast Guard Academy. Dobson's time of 9:47.07 was not only over 10 seconds faster than the second-place finisher, but it also shattered the MIT record by over five seconds. The record was previously set in 2005 by Mark Y. Liao '06.

Dobson also won first place in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 4:47.35, helping the 15th-ranked Engineers earn a split in the tri-meet. The team defeated Springfield, 181-117, but were narrowly edged by Coast Guard, 154-144.

—Shreyes Seshasai and DAPER Staff

Why this was Game of the Week:

In a clash of nationally-ranked men's volleyball teams, MIT scared top-ranked Springfield College by winning the second game and staying competitive throughout. Despite falling in four games, the team proved capable of competing for the national championship.

a deficit too large for MIT to overcome.

The Engineers looked to rebound in the second game, but again fell behind 18-14. A solid block by Malcolm K. Bean '11 and several mishits from Springfield gave MIT some momentum, but serving errors again cost MIT a few critical points. Down 24-22, the Engineers then went on a run, scoring the next five points behind the serving of Praveen Pamidukkala '08, last year's North East Collegiate Volleyball Association's Player of the Year. A kill from Bean brought the score to 28-25, and then



Trace U. Sauter '11 takes off at the beginning of the men's 100-yard backstroke at the MIT swimming and diving team's Saturday meet with Colby College. The Engineers won the meet 176-94 at the Zesiger Center Pool.

AARON SAMPSON—THE TECH

Cowboys' WR Owens Models the Hypocrisy In Sports

By Caroline Huang

SPORTS EDITOR

Consider the following scenarios: Quarterback A vomits during the last drive of a game during a playoff loss, causing people to question his fitness. Quarterback B vacations in Mexico with his famous girlfriend prior to a playoff loss, causing people to question his focus.

Which one seems more reprehensible? I'm inclined to say Quarterback B. Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Terrell Owens, however, defended Quarterback B several years after blasting Quarterback A.

To clarify by naming names: Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Donovan McNabb vomited during the final drive of Super Bowl XXXIX, earning him T.O.'s wrath and placing him under a microscope as a quarterback unable to win big games. Dallas Cowboys quarterback Tony Romo vacationed with singer Jessica

Owens, Page 19

Patriots Stay Perfect; Giants Shock Packers In NFC Championship

By Caroline Huang
and Shreyes Seshasai

SPORTS EDITORS

While the New England Patriots' pursuit of perfection remains intact after finishing off the San Diego Chargers,

Column their final hurdle is an unlikely one. Apparently, the clock has not quite struck midnight for the New York Giants, who ended the Green Bay Packers' run at a Super Bowl appearance. Before we preview the Super Bowl in next week's issue, here are our recaps of the conference championships.

AFC Championship: Patriots beat Chargers, 21-12

The name of the game was red-

zone efficiency, and the Patriots were far superior to the Chargers in the American Football Conference Championship. The Patriots clawed their way to three touchdowns; the Chargers were forced to settle for four field goals.

In a game where quarterback Tom Brady's passing was uncharacteristically sloppy to the tune of a 66.4 QB rating, the Patriots once again found alternate ways to win. The Chargers effectively took wide receiver Randy Moss out of the game and neutralized Brady on a gusty night, but running backs Kevin Faulk and Laurence Maroney stepped up to keep moving the chains.

This was a marked change from

NFL, Page 18

NHL Unable to Attract New Fans for Numerous Reasons

Anonymity of Players Contributes to Lack of Fan Base

By Shreyes Seshasai

SPORTS EDITOR

Sometimes I wonder why more people aren't hockey fans. Sports in the United States are built around

Column four major leagues: the National Football League, the National Basketball Association, Major League Baseball, and the National Hockey League. Sure, more people watch

NHL, Page 18

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS

Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2008

Men's Ice Hockey vs. Daniel Webster

7 p.m., Johnson Ice Arena

Thursday, Jan. 24, 2008

Men's Volleyball vs. Elms College

7 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008

Rifle vs. Coast Guard, Wentworth, John Jay, Penn State,

SUNY-Maritime

1 p.m., duPont Athletic Center

Women's Basketball vs. Mount Holyoke

1 p.m., Rockwell Cage

Wrestling vs. Bridgewater State, Plymouth State, Norwich

1 p.m., duPont Athletic Center

Squash vs. Fordham

2 p.m., Zesiger Center

Sunday, Jan. 27, 2008

Rifle vs. Coast Guard, Wentworth, John Jay, Penn State,

SUNY-Maritime

1 p.m., duPont Athletic Center

Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2008

Men's Volleyball vs. Lesley

9 a.m., Rockwell Cage



Sarah N. Trowbridge '08, co-captain of the women's gymnastics team, does a handstand during her floor routine at MIT's quad meet in duPont Gymnasium on Jan. 19, 2008. The Engineers placed second behind Ursinus College but above Wilson College and Island College.

ANDREA ROBLES—THE TECH